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Promotion and protection of the rights of children: promotion and protection of the rights of children

Status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child**

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In its resolution 71/177, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its seventy-second session a report on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the issues addressed in the resolution, with a focus on violence against children. The present report highlights significant achievements by Member States, United Nations system entities (including the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization), regional bodies, multi-stakeholder coalitions and others in advancing the protection of children from all forms of violence and includes recommendations for continued progress on this critical issue.

* A/72/150.

** The present report was submitted after the deadline in order to reflect the most recent developments.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 71/177, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its seventy-second session a report on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the issues addressed in the resolution, with a focus on violence against children. The present report is submitted in accordance with that request.

II. Status of and reporting on the Convention

2. As at 1 July 2017, the Convention on the Rights of the Child had been ratified or acceded to by 196 States. One Member State, the United States of America, is not yet party to the Convention. As at 1 July 2017, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict had been ratified or acceded to by 166 States; the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography had been ratified or acceded to by 173 States; and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure had been ratified or acceded to by 34 States.

3. Since the previous report (A/71/413), the Committee on the Rights of the Child held its seventy-third to seventy-fifth sessions. As at 1 July 2017, the Committee had received initial reports from all but three States parties: South Sudan, Tonga and the State of Palestine. The Committee had reviewed all initial reports submitted. The Committee had received 516 initial and periodic reports, including combined periodic reports. The Committee had received 113 initial reports and two periodic reports under the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict and 102 initial reports and 2 periodic reports under the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

III. Accelerating progress in the prevention and elimination of violence against children

4. Ending violence against children means creating a world where societies no longer tolerate nor commit violence against children and children's rights are fully protected and realized. States, United Nations system entities, regional organizations, civil society, private sector actors and others have been making strides towards this goal through systematic work and a broad set of dynamic and innovative prevention and response initiatives. The 2006 study on violence against children (A/61/299) and its recommendations have helped to hasten progress. Today, national, regional and global actors are accelerating action and building on the strategic opportunity presented by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially target 16.2, which calls for an end to all forms of violence against children, as well as target 5.2 on eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls, target 5.3 on eliminating such harmful practices as child marriage and female genital mutilation and target 8.7 on eradicating forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour.

5. Violence affects children of all ages the world over. Each year, at least 1 billion children between the ages of 2 and 17 (half of the world's children in this age group) experience emotional, physical or sexual violence.[1] Violence does not

[1] See A/71/206, para. 9. See also: Susan Hillis and others, "Global prevalence of past-year violence against children: a systematic review and minimum estimates", *Pediatrics*, vol. 137, No. 3 (March 2016).

discriminate by age, race, culture, socioeconomic status or geography. It occurs in all settings, including in homes, communities, schools, online environments, workplaces, detention centres and childcare institutions. Children suffer physical, verbal, psychological and emotional violence, including neglect, exploitation, sexual abuse, trafficking, torture, homicide, forced and child marriage, female genital mutilation, bullying, child labour and other forms of violence. The global costs of violence against children are staggering, estimated to be as high as $7 trillion, a cost that far outstrips the projected investment needed to prevent such violence.[2]

6. Violence against children is often associated with poverty, marginalization, discrimination, gender stereotypes and other vulnerabilities. Children with disabilities face disproportionate risks of experiencing violence. Evidence shows that violence in childhood may have long-lasting, sometimes fatal, effects. Childhood violence increases the risk of injury, self-harm, mental health and psychosocial conditions. Violence can compromise cognitive development and school performance. Childhood violence can precipitate early pregnancy and motherhood, cause reproductive health problems and lead to communicable and non-communicable diseases.[3]

7. A child's right to freedom from all forms of violence is a human rights imperative firmly grounded in international law. Increased international attention and determination to end violence against children has accelerated the development of international standards and policy frameworks. Among those are the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure, the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (see General Assembly resolution 69/194), the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the International Labour Organization Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (No. 182) and the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189).

8. Since the publication of the 2006 study on violence against children, the United Nations established the global advocacy mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children to promote the implementation of the study's recommendations and the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children, working closely and cooperating with the United Nations system. The Committee systematically issues recommendations on methods to prevent and end violence against children. Its guidelines for periodic reports include a specific cluster on violence against children (see CRC/C/58/Rev3). The Committee has also issued two general comments on the question of corporal punishment (see CRC/C/GC/8) and the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence(see CRC/C/GC/13). The Human Rights Council has addressed children's protection from violence during its annual meetings on the rights of the child.[4]

9. Target 16.2 of the 2030 Agenda acts as a catalyst for accelerating progress and gives urgency to global efforts to end violence against children and to achieve related goals addressing poverty, health, education, gender equality, safe environments and justice. The global agenda to end violence against children has

[2] Paola Pereznieto and others, "The Costs and Economic Impact of Violence Against Children", Overseas Development Institute/Child Fund Alliance, September 2014.

[3] See A/HRC/34/45, para. 53; and Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, "Toward a World Free from Violence: Global Survey on Violence against Children" (New York, 2013).

[4] For example, Human Rights Council resolutions 34/16 and 31/7.

expanded to national and regional levels. There is growing ownership of the agenda by Member States, driving progress from the national level, a key condition for achieving target 16.2 and other violence-related targets.

IV. Milestones in preventing and eliminating violence against children

A. International multi-stakeholder cooperative processes

10. Several global multi-stakeholder platforms and initiatives aim to provide technical support to national actors and build global knowledge. The Inter-Agency Working Group on Violence against Children, chaired by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, is a platform for policy coordination and information-sharing among United Nations system entities to advance the implementation of the recommendations from the 2006 study on violence against children. The Global Partnership to End Violence against Children and Alliance 8.7, which aims to eradicate forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour, are specific platforms supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Those platforms convene cross-sectoral institutional and individual partners, including Governments, the United Nations, civil society, the private sector, foundations, researchers, academics and children to build political will, promote solutions, accelerate action and strengthen collaboration.[5]

11. The Violence Prevention Alliance is a global network of Member States, international organizations and civil society organizations supporting the implementation of recommendations from the *World Report on Violence and Health*, published by the World Health Organization (WHO). Similarly, the WePROTECT Global Alliance to End Child Sexual Exploitation Online is a partnership of 70 countries, leading technology companies, international organizations and civil society committed to ending child sexual abuse and exploitation through a coordinated response at the national and international levels.[6]

12. Other multi-stakeholder initiatives include UNiTE to End Violence against Women, coordinated by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), and the High Time to End Violence against Children initiative, a social mobilization initiative promoted by the Special Representative with a wide range of partners to advance protection of children from violence.[7] Issue-specific initiatives include the Coalition on Every Child's Right to a Nationality, the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Promoting Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, the Global Working Group to End School-related Gender-based Violence, the Early Childhood Peace Consortium and the Global Partnership on Children with Disabilities.

[5] See www.end-violence.org and www.alliance87.org.

[6] See www.weprotect.org.

[7] See www.endviolenceagainstchildren.org.

B. Regional plans and commitments

13. Regional organizations are driving initiatives, policies and legislation to address violence against children.[8] The African Union has established goals to end violence against children by 2040 and several States are establishing the African Partnership to End Violence against Children, using advocacy and cross-border learning to strengthen political action. The African Common Position on the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage, the model law to end child marriage in Southern Africa, and the 2015 African Girls' Summit on Ending Child Marriage support the elimination of child marriage in Africa.[9] The Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Plan of Action on Elimination of Violence against Children is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The South Asian Initiative to End Violence against Children is formulating its second five-year work plan and spearheaded the Regional Action Plan to End Child Marriage in South Asia (2015-2018) and the Kathmandu Call for Action to End Child Marriage in South Asia.[10]

14. The European Union's Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy (2015-2019) includes support for strengthening national child protection systems to prevent and address violence against children. The Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021) includes protection of children from violence, through the promotion of child participation and the prevention of the deprivation of liberty and other violence-related concerns.[11] In Latin America, the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) Niñ@Sur initiative is developing a regional policy on positive discipline, violence prevention and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Caribbean Community Task Force on Child Rights and Child Protection has a regional strategy on prevention and elimination of violence against children. The Central American Integration System is drafting a regional convention to address sexual violence against children.[12] The League of Arab States has launched two follow-up reports regarding implementation of recommendations of the 2006 study on violence against children.[13]

15. Additional advances at the regional level include improved data collection and information exchange in the Middle East, North Africa, Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States regarding children on the move, the development of regional networks and the sharing of applied research plans and practice on violence prevention.[14] To accelerate progress in violence prevention and response, the Special Representative has hosted seven annual cross-regional meetings of regional organizations and eight high-level regional consultations.[15]

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[8] See A/71/206, para. 57.

[9] Ibid., para. 72.

[10] Ibid., para. 80 and A/HRC/31/20, paras 37-40.

[11] See A/HRC/31/20, paras. 41-42.

[12] Ibid., paras. 29-32.

[13] See http://srsg.violenceagainstchildren.org/sites/default/files/publications_final/league_of_arab_states_report_2013.pdf; and http://srsg.violenceagainstchildren.org/sites/default/files/publications_final/las_report_final.pdf.

[14] United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), "Annual results report 2016: child protection" (New York, 2017).

[15] See http://srsg.violenceagainstchildren.org/knowledge.

C. National level advancements

16. Member States are steadily reforming laws to protect children from violence. Over 50 States have enacted national legislation banning all forms of violence against children, most recently in Ireland, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lithuania, Mongolia, Paraguay, Peru, Slovenia and Viet Nam.[16]

17. More than 90 countries are adopting and implementing comprehensive multisectoral national agendas to free children from violence, most recently in the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ghana, Indonesia, Nigeria and Norway.[17] Multisectoral agendas are crucial for promoting coordinated action across Governments, fostering synergy between institutions and generating resources for implementation. The WHO Global Plan of Action (2016) aims to strengthen the role of the health system within national multisectoral responses to interpersonal violence, in particular against women and children.[18] Many civil society organizations have raised awareness and engaged in national initiatives against corporal punishment, female genital mutilation and other violence-related issues.

18. The most recent data from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) show that half of all school-age children live in countries that do not fully prohibit corporal punishment in schools, leaving 732 million children without full legal protection. However, several States have recently adopted legislation prohibiting corporal punishment, including in homes, care settings, schools, penal institutions and as punishment for criminal activity. Others have passed partial prohibitions. Some States engage in programmes for positive child development and discipline, parenting skills and the prevention of violence.[19]

19. Twenty-one of the 29 States where female genital mutilation is prevalent have enacted national decrees or legislation banning the practice.[20] The number of States with budget lines addressing female genital mutilation rose from 6 to 13 in 2015.[21] The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)-UNICEF Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting supports the establishment and enforcement of legal and policy frameworks for promoting the abandonment of the practice. The Joint Programme supports prevention and protection services, including child protection and sexual and reproductive health services; and efforts to change social norms. In 2016, more than 2,931 communities across 16 countries declared their abandonment of female genital mutilation, comprising about 8.5 million people.[22] Even in States without full-fledged laws on female genital mutilation, advances towards criminalization of the practice are apparent, such as in Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria and the Sudan. A new draft law on gender-based violence in Mali includes the prohibition of female genital mutilation and child marriage.[23]

20. The Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage, developed by UNFPA and UNICEF, supports 12 high-prevalence countries[24] to develop and implement national action plans and strategies to combat child marriage, strengthen education and health systems and provide reproductive health services for girls at

[16] See A/HRC/34/45, para. 16.
[17] See A/HRC/31/20, para. 99.
[18] See www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/violence/gpa-booklet/en/.
[19] See A/68/257, para. 31.
[20] UNICEF, *Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: a statistical overview and exploration of the dynamics of change* (New York, 2013).
[21] UNICEF, "Annual results report 2016".
[22] Ibid.
[23] Ibid.
[24] Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, the Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia.

risk of marriage, already married or in unions, support community mobilization to end child marriage and generate data and evidence to support decision-making and informed programming. By 2016, 7[25] of the 12 States had developed national strategies to end child marriage.

21. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) works with several States to promote legal and policy reform aimed at the prevention of children's involvement in violence and crime, and to strengthen the capacity of justice systems to effectively prevent and respond to violence against children.[26] Those initiatives foster coordination between justice and child protection systems, to better serve and protect children in contact with the justice system (child victims, witnesses and alleged child offenders). Advances in effective monitoring and inspection of places of detention are evident in several countries, including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay. Monitoring and inspection efforts include the establishment of autonomous institutions to prevent and identify incidents, inter-institutional commissions of supervision within Ministries of Justice, and bodies under the auspices of independent human rights institutions (see A/71/206, paras. 106-111).

22. Confidential, child-friendly counselling, complaint and reporting mechanisms are an integral part of strengthening national legal and policy frameworks to prevent and respond to violence against children. While counselling, recovery and reintegration facilities remain scarce, encouraging initiatives exist. In Mali, a national manual for the care of child victims of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect connects mechanisms from across the Government; Israel maintains centres providing services for sexually abused children. In addition, one-stop care centres providing medical, mental health and psychosocial support, forensic and other services in one location are increasingly common, such as the Thuthuzela Care Centres in South Africa, child protection units in the Philippines and children's houses in several European countries.[27]

23. Several States are improving child protection budget and finance decisions, including on violence against children. According to UNICEF, the number of States improving child protection budgeting rose from 27 in 2015 to 31 in 2016.[28] Myanmar, Uganda and others, with UNICEF support, are expanding child protection budgets by developing a financial management package for child protection systems to standardize and analyse government expenditures and inform advocacy and guidance. In Uganda, firmer integration of equitable budgeting at the local level continues to provide a platform for improving future budgets.[29]

24. States are increasing capacity for early detection and prevention of violence against children, as well as the response thereto, through the training of personnel in social work, law enforcement, education, health, criminal justice and matters relating to migration, refugees and asylum seeking. Such training includes the use of appropriate procedures and protocols in response to signs of violence against and abuse of children. Some States have established institutions, introduced codes of conduct, or issued memorandums of understanding to promote continuous capacity-building. Morocco has basic training modules for responding to violence against children in the curricula of faculties of medicine, arts and social sciences, and

[25] Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mozambique, Nepal, Uganda and Zambia.

[26] The mandate and role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to provide assistance in the area of justice for children has been reaffirmed by resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Human Rights Council.

[27] Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, "Toward a World Free from Violence".

[28] UNICEF, "Annual results report 2016".

[29] Ibid.

within training institutes for health workers.[30] Togo trains teachers in positive discipline so they can model positive, non-violent interactions.[31]

25. Many States are working to strengthen institutional capacity to protect children. Nineteen States have adopted protocols for training professionals across sectors and handling cases of sexual violence against children. The Dominican Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Maldives, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam, among others, are mobilizing the travel and tourism sector for the prevention of sexual exploitation of children through the signing of codes of conduct.[32]

V. Programmatic advances in preventing and eliminating violence against children

A. Improved data collection for evidence-based programming

26. Data collection is critical for developing important, evidence-based programmes, informing budget allocations and policy decisions and enabling public scrutiny of the State's response to violence against children. Efforts to consolidate data systems seek to improve coherence and infrastructures for global monitoring, including tools for quality assurance and target setting. Such efforts also address persisting challenges, including inconsistencies among national, subnational and international definitions, inaccurate recording of data, limited data disaggregation, weak country-level capacity and under-reporting.

27. The Statistical Commission's Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators has adopted three important indicators related to target 16.2 on children's exposure to sexual, physical and emctional violence. Target 5.2 indicators track intimate partner violence and non-partner violence against women and girls and target 5.3 has indicators for tracking child marriage and female genital mutilation.

28. National Governments collect data on violence against children using Demographic and Health Surveys, multiple indicator cluster surveys and other household surveys. The cluster surveys include a module on the use of violent and non-violent disciplinary practices by household members and the Demographic and Health Surveys include a module on domestic violence. Several States have strengthened national child protection systems and violence prevention programmes using data from specific surveys that measure violence against children, implemented with technical assistance from the Together for Girls partnership. Those national surveys help States document the magnitude, nature and impact of violence in childhood and identify health outcomes, risks and protective factors. The data provide important points of reference for policy and budgeting decisions. Thirteen[33] national Governments have completed specific surveys on violence against children, with around 10 additional surveys under way.

Together for Girls partnership

29. Together for Girls is a global private-public partnership, aiming to end violence against children, especially sexual violence against girls. The partnership

[30] Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, "Toward a World Free from Violence".

[31] Ibid.

[32] UNICEF, "Annual results report 2016".

[33] Botswana, Cambodia, Haiti, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Swaziland, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

supports Governments and communities to gather and present comprehensive data to develop and implement country-level policy and action plans to eliminate violence against children and its associated impact. The partnership engages in global advocacy and public awareness-raising on issues related to violence against children. It is active in 22 countries and includes the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UNFPA, UNICEF, UN-Women, and the World Health Organization/Pan-American Health Organization, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, the Governments of Canada and the United States of America and several private sector actors.

30. Several States are developing comprehensive data systems and improving data collection on specific aspects of violence against children. In Mexico, Infoniñez includes 279 indicators disaggregated by gender, age, municipality, health, nutrition, education and protection, among others.[34] Civil society organizations have established Equal Measures 2030 to compile data and provide evidence on gender gaps in outcomes, monitor progress for girls and identify evidence-based solutions.[35]

31. The United Nations Survey of Crime Trends, Operations of Criminal Justice Systems, supported by 130 national focal points, provides data on crime on an annual basis. The Survey is undergoing a review to respond to new information needs derived from the Sustainable Development Goals indicators framework, including better situation analyses on children in contact with the justice system, and to adopt the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes — a tool for improving statistical information on crime and criminal justice, including on children in contact with the justice system.[36]

B. Advances in enhancing awareness, consolidating knowledge and sharing good practices

32. Efforts to enhance awareness and knowledge are essential for changing the social norms, attitudes and behaviours of parents, families and communities. Many countries are actively working to raise awareness through the media, in schools and with parents and teachers. This includes national campaigns, the use of new media, child-to-child radio programmes and manuals addressing specific aspects of violence against children.[37]

33. Research initiatives by the Special Representative have contributed to efforts to consolidate knowledge to address violence against children. Key publications include "Toward a World Free from Violence: Global Survey on Violence against Children", and thematic studies on violence in schools and in the justice system, restorative justice, girls in the criminal justice system, bullying, child-friendly reporting and complaint mechanisms (to safeguard child participation), harmful practices, armed violence and organized crime, and information and communications technologies.[38] Companion child-friendly materials help inform and empower children. Expert consultations convened by the Special Representative

[34] Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, "Toward a World Free from Violence".

[35] See www.equalmeasures2030.org.

[36] For International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes, see www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/statistics/iccs.html.

[37] Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, "Toward a World Free from Violence".

[38] See http://srsg.violenceagainstchildren.org/publications.

on critical areas of concern contribute to awareness-raising, policy development, the consolidation of knowledge and the sharing of best practices.[39]

34. The report "Hidden in Plain Sight: a statistical analysis of violence against children" (2014), published by UNICEF, is a comprehensive compilation of key data related to violence against children. UNICEF also published a rigorous review of global research evidence on policy and practice on school-related gender-based violence[40] under the End Gender Violence in Schools Initiative. UNICEF and partners published the "Multi-Country Study on the Drivers of Violence Affecting Children" (2016) (an ongoing action-research project in Italy, Peru, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe), and "Uprooted: the growing crisis for refugee and migrant children". UNICEF and partners also developed Global Kids Online, an international network and research project on children's use of the Internet. Know Violence in Childhood is a collaborative global learning initiative, which has commissioned over 30 research papers and a global road map on violence prevention, to be finalized in 2017. The evidence-based WHO global status report on violence prevention (2014), evaluates the extent to which countries have implemented prevention strategies and reduced interpersonal violence.

35. A 2016 global study by End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism, on the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism, revealed that this crime has expanded across the globe and has outpaced all response efforts.[41] The "Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse" (2016) serves as a guide to navigate the complex lexicon related to sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children and aims to build consensus on key concepts across agencies, sectors and countries.[42]

36. Several new handbooks and guidelines were recently produced or are under development. In Jordan, UNICEF supported the development of guidelines for addressing gender-based violence among people with disabilities, including children, and provided training to relevant agencies. The World Health Organization led the development of a new inter-agency tool, known as INSPIRE, helping countries and communities to intensify the efforts to prevent violence against children.[43]

Seven strategies for ending violence against children

37. In 2016, 10 core agencies developed and launched a technical package of evidence-based strategies to strengthen programmes and services for preventing and responding to violence against children, INSPIRE, and established the INSPIRE working group for Governments, civil society, professional associations, Government and private sector donors and United Nations system entities to collaborate, share information and review joint progress and opportunities.

38. The strategies presented by INSPIRE include: guidelines for the implementation of laws and policies; strengthening and investing in improved case management to better identify vulnerable children and refer them to specialized services; establishing child-sensitive and gender-responsive counselling, reporting and complaint mechanisms and independent monitoring to address incidents of violence; systematic considerations of gender, age, family situation, disability and other key factors; strengthening the social service workforce, including the quality

[39] See http://srsg.violenceagainstchildren.org/children-corner.
[40] Available from http://www.ungei.org/SRGBV_review_FINAL_V1_web_version_2.pdf.
[41] See http://globalstudysectt.org.
[42] Available from www.unicef.org/protection/files/Terminology_guidelines_396922-E.pdf.
[43] Available from www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/inspire/en/.

and number of social workers; and promoting prevention through early intervention services, positive, non-violent parenting and positive discipline practices.

39. Cross-national partnerships promote good practices and collaboration and create accountability structures. Under the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, 13 countries have signed on as "pathfinding partners" and are working together to develop national road maps to end violence against children. Several countries have appointed senior government focal points for the in-country pathfinding process.[44]

40. The United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice offer a comprehensive and practical framework to assist Governments in the review of national laws, procedures and practices; encourage States to adopt effective ways to reduce the number of children in the justice system, such as diversion measures, restorative justice programmes, support to families, non-coercive treatment, education programmes and alternatives to judicial proceedings; support criminal justice systems to prevent, and respond to, violence against children; and strengthen multisectoral coordination.

41. A key vehicle to support States in implementing the Model Strategies is the UNODC Global Programme on Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,[45] which serves as a platform to share, exchange and replicate lessons learned and good practices. Colombia is the first pilot country under the Global Programme to create a paradigm shift in the treatment of children in contact with the justice system. The approach includes the promotion of a restorative justice approach and wide use of diversionary measures, capacity-building for justice and child protection professionals, a crime prevention strategy through arts, sports and cultural activities; and the establishment of coordination mechanisms.[46]

VI. Innovative practices

42. National Governments, regional organizations, United Nations entities, civil society organizations and other actors have increased the efforts to involve children in initiatives to prevent and respond to violence against children, including through reporting, research and consultations. States have introduced policies and legal provisions to support children's participation. For example, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs of Ireland has issued guidelines for developing ethical research projects involving children.[47]

43. Children's participation in research on violence against children, both as subjects and as researchers, includes participatory and child-led methodologies. In Kenya, young people are engaged in cutting-edge participatory digital mapping of risks and vulnerabilities related to health and protection in their community through the "Map Kibera" project, supported by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), UNICEF and other partners.[48] UNICEF and partners support child participatory research initiatives such as U-Report, EduTrac (for education monitoring) and digital community mapping, which are producing results in many States.

[44] See www.end-violence.org/pathfinding.html.

[45] See General Assembly resolution 69/172, paragraph 20.

[46] See E/CN.15/2017/9, paras. 42 and 45; and E/CN.7/2017/2-E/CN.15/2017/2, para. 67.

[47] Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, "Toward a World Free from Violence".

[48] See http://mapkibera.org/.

44. A ground-breaking, text-message based platform, known as U-Report, serves to engage young people in their communities, including on violence against children. U-Report has over 1 million active users in 15 States. U-Reporters send text messages to express their opinions and make recommendations for issues affecting their lives. It yields real-time information that can be used for advocacy and shared directly with elected leaders. Every member of the Ugandan Parliament has signed up for U-Report to monitor and respond to the opinions of young people in their districts.[49]

45. Technological innovations, such as RapidSMS[50] and RapidPro[51] monitor child protection issues, including efforts to end violence against children. Primero is an inter-agency initiative including UNICEF, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Rescue Committee, Save the Children, UNFPA, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. Primero is an open source software application that helps partners securely and confidentially collect, store, manage and share data for protection-related incident monitoring, case management, family tracing and reunification.[52]

VII. Areas of focused attention

A. Gender dimensions

46. Generally, many forms of violence and harmful practices against children, and girls in particular, are rooted in gender inequality and stereotypes, especially sexual violence and harassment, intimate partner and family violence, school-related gender-based violence and child marriage. The scale and scope of gender-based violence against girls around the globe is massive, with one third of women experiencing physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime and an estimated 120 million girls under 20 having experienced sexual violence.[53] Gender-based violence is linked to adolescent pregnancy, poor school attendance and high dropout rates, in addition to other physical and mental health consequences. Girls in humanitarian crises, conflict, natural disasters and displaced or migrant girls are more vulnerable to gender-based violence. The global community is increasing attention to boys' exposure to sexual violence, though data on prevalence are less available.

47. Responses to the gender dimensions of violence against children range from strengthening legislation and developing standards, policies and guidelines, to advocacy and building capacity for prevention and response services. In 2016, at least 16 States adopted national policies and plans to address sexual violence against children.[54] Other legislation and policy reform focus on promoting gender equality, addressing aspects of gender-based violence, prohibiting child marriage and tackling domestic violence.

48. School-related gender-based violence, defined as acts or threats of sexual, physical or psychological violence occurring in and around schools, affects millions of children, teachers and communities around the world, and is perpetuated because

[49] See www.unicef.org/media/media_82583.html.
[50] See www.rapidsms.org.
[51] See www.rapidpro.io.
[52] See www.primero.org.
[53] See https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/violence/sexual-violence.
[54] UNICEF, "Annual results report 2016".

of gender norms and unequal power dynamics.[55] Girls are particularly vulnerable, although both male and female students and teachers can be victims. National Governments, with the support of United Nations system entities, civil society and others, are exploring prevention and response approaches, including legal and policy reform, education, training for educators, codes of conduct and the promotion of positive behaviours. Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Togo and Zambia are enacting comprehensive school-related gender-based violence prevention plans as part of the End Gender Violence in Schools initiative supported by the Global Partnership for Education and UNICEF.[56]

49. Attention to the rights of girls in the criminal justice system is increasing. The thematic publication of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, *Safeguarding the rights of girls in the criminal justice system: Preventing violence, stigmatization and deprivation of liberty* (2015),[57] explains that millions of girls around the world are exposed to violence in many forms, yet most cases go unnoticed or unaddressed by the criminal justice system. Girls who come into contact with the justice system risk stigmatization, punishment and re-victimization. Several States are working to strengthen relevant legislation, prevention programmes and capacity to tackle impunity.

B. Child labour, including its worst forms

50. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that, in 2012, some 168 million children aged between 5 and 17 were involved in child labour, a decline of 30 per cent since 2000,[58] with a clear downward trajectory. Child labour, especially its worst forms, often involves violence, such as forced labour, the use of children by armed forces and armed groups, sexual exploitation, illicit activities and hazardous work. Millions of children face compounding risks that pave the way for exploitation, including deep poverty, discrimination, humanitarian crises, organized crime and poor enforcement or regulation of child protection and labour standards. Forced displacement and situations in which migration is the only viable option for children can increase their vulnerability to child labour. Increased global attention is evident in the establishment of Alliance 8.7 to eradicate forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour.

C. Children on the move

51. Today, the world is facing unprecedented levels of displacement and irregular migration, which require an effective and rights-sensitive global response. According to UNHCR, half of the world's refugees are children.[59] International human rights law establishes and protects the rights of all children, including

[55] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, *Global Guidance on Addressing School-related Gender-based Violence* (New York and Paris, 2016).

[56] UNICEF, "End gender violence in schools, A rigorous review of evidence of global research evidence on policy and practice on school-related gender-based violence". Available from http://www.ungei.org/SRGBV_review_FINAL_V1_web_version_2.pdf.

[57] Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, *Safeguarding the rights of girls in the criminal justice system: preventing violence, stigmatization and deprivation of liberty* (New York, 2015).

[58] International Labour Organization, *Marking progress against child labour — Global estimates and trends 2000-2012*, International Labour Office, International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) (Geneva, International Labour Office, 2013).

[59] United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), "Global trends: forced displacement in 2016" (Geneva, 2017).

migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons, regardless of their migratory status or that of their parents. International and regional refugee law affords further protections to refugee children.

52. Yet, many children on the move suffer severe hardship, violence and insecurity. Recent data indicate that 50 million children are on the move and 1 in 200 children is a refugee, an increase of 75 per cent over five years.[60] Children undertake risky journeys, often alone or separated from their parents or families, to escape persecution or conflict, poverty, discrimination or other violations of their rights. They are at risk of abuse, neglect, violence, exploitation, trafficking, forced recruitment into armed groups, forced marriage or separation from their families. Children may be too frightened to report incidents of abuse or violence and may experience fear, anxiety, panic, depression, sleep disorders, mental health and other psychosocial problems. Authorities may place the children in crowded detention centres or other restricted areas against their best interests. Children, and in particular girls, may be detained or subject to forced labour or marriage under the false pretence that it is done in the interest of protecting them.[61]

53. Ensuring protection for children on the move, addressing the root causes of conflict and irregular migration, and promoting legal pathways for admission to third countries is imperative. Several States have strengthened legislation to protect children while on the move and during reintegration to their country of origin.[62] The Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on Migrant Workers are developing a joint general comment on the human rights of children in the context of international migration.

54. At the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, held in 2016, Member States adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (General Assembly resolution 71/1), setting in motion processes for the development of two global compacts (on refugees and on safe, orderly and regular migration) for adoption in 2018. A coalition of child protection actors has come together as the Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts to advocate for the compacts to address the rights, needs and risks of children on the move, including aspects related to violence against children.[63] The Coalition on Every Child's Right to a Nationality, led by UNHCR and UNICEF, is working to prevent statelessness among children. A new inter-agency Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action enhances standard-setting in humanitarian contexts.

D. Armed violence in the community

55. The impact of armed violence in the community on children is of increasing concern, as highlighted in the report of the Special Representative, entitled "Protecting children affected by armed violence in the community" (2016). Armed violence is more common in communities where weapons are in wide circulation, which is often associated with the presence of organized crime, gangs and/or other aggravating factors, such as natural disasters, poverty, discrimination and drug and alcohol abuse. Armed violence, including extortion, physical violence, homicides and disappearances, often has a devastating effect on childhood and adolescence. Children from affected communities may face stigmatization and increased risk of

[60] UNICEF, "Uprooted: the growing crisis for refugee and migrant children" (New York, 2016).
[61] See A/71/206, para. 100 and A/HRC/34/45, para. 51.
[62] UNICEF, "Annual results report 2016".
[63] See www.childrenonthemove.org.

detention. Adolescent boys are at increased risk of homicide as a result of street fighting, street crime, gang membership and possession of weapons.[64]

56. States bear primary responsibility for protecting children from armed violence, with regard to which a wide-ranging and integrated prevention approach is required. Such approaches should strive to build a safe environment, secure public safety and promote access to justice and restorative justice approaches. Armed violence prevention and reduction programmes in Latin America align national legal frameworks with international human rights standards to incorporate such principles.[65] States must also protect those who flee their countries to escape armed violence, including through the granting of refugee status under international and regional instruments.[66]

57. An emerging and worrying form of violence against children is the recruitment and use of children by non-State armed groups, some of which are described as terrorist and violent extremist groups. Such groups have abducted, recruited and used thousands of children, subjecting them to violence and in some cases leading them to commit criminal offences, including acts of terrorism, war crimes and crimes against humanity.[67] Member States increasingly face challenges in developing effective prevention and responses while simultaneously providing appropriate accountability mechanisms when children have perpetrated offences. Since 2015, countries from Central and West Africa and the Middle East and North Africa regions have been working with technical assistance from UNODC to address such challenges.[68]

58. The UNODC Global Programme on Violence against Children supports the efforts by Member States to strengthen justice systems. It aims to prevent children's involvement with violent extremist groups, provide effective responses to children in contact with the justice system and promote the social reintegration of alleged child offenders, particularly those deprived of their liberty. UNODC builds the capacity of justice and child protection officials from States facing threats from Boko Haram and other terrorist and violent extremist groups, including in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.[69]

E. Bullying

59. Bullying and cyberbullying are global phenomena affecting millions of children and causing profound harm in their lives. Around 132 million students between the ages of13 and 15 (or 1 in 3 students in that age group) experience bullying regularly.[70] In recognition of the severity of the issue, the Secretary-General issued a report on the topic in 2016 (A/71/213), which is the source of the information presented below.

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[64] See A/70/289, para 55.

[65] UNICEF, "Annual results report 2016"

[66] See UNHCR, "Guidelines on International Protection No. 12: Claims for refugee status related to situations of armed conflict and violence under article 1A(2) of the 1951 Convention and/or 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees and the regional refugee definitions", (HCR/GIP/16/12).

[67] See A/70/836-S/2016/360, A/69/926-S/2015/409 and A/HRC/30/67.

[68] See E/CN.7/2017/2-E/CN.15/2017/2, para. 60, and Economic and Social Council resolution 2016/18.

[69] See E/CN.7/2017/2-E/CN.15/2017/2, para. 60, E/CN.15/2017/5, para. 56 and E/CN.7/2016/2-E/CN.15/2016/2, para. 63.

[70] UNICEF, "Hidden in Plain Sight: a statistical analysis of violence against children" (New York, 2014).

60. Growing access to information and communications technology has increased children's risk of online abuse and vulnerability to cyberbullying. Children in vulnerable situations are at greater risk of in-person and online bullying, such as children with disabilities, displaced children and children who are perceived as having a sexual orientation or gender identity different from the norm. Adolescent girls are often at risk of cyberbullying associated with sexual abuse.

61. A study led by the Special Representative, entitled "Ending the torment: tackling bullying from the schoolyard to cyberspace" (2016), in support of the Secretary-General's report on the same topic, explains that enhanced cooperation and serious investment are needed to end bullying and cyberbullying. Five priority areas for action are: building a culture of zero tolerance, supporting parents and caregivers, empowering children, ensuring whole-school and whole-community approaches and ensuring sustained action by States.

62. Anti-bullying initiatives include awareness-raising campaigns, legislative and policy reform and prevention efforts. The global campaign under the hashtag "#ENDviolence against children" has drawn attention to the prevalence and impact of cyberbullying and prompted action by Governments, civil society and the private sector. In Latin America, the "Basta de Bullying" campaign, sponsored by the Cartoon Network in cooperation with Plan International and World Vision, reaches 60 million households. General comment No. 13 (2011) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, on the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence, addresses bullying, including through the use of information and communications technology.

63. States have developed national policies to prevent and address bullying. Some have legislated for specific offences, such as student harassment, the disclosure of intimate photographs without consent and malicious impersonation online, in order to address distinct aspects of bullying and cyberbullying. Some States have established remedies enabling victims to initiate civil proceedings or seek protection orders, as well as measures prohibiting communication with a specific person, restricting the use of electronic communication, or confiscating electronic devices used for cyberbullying.

64. Health policies, prevention programmes and restorative approaches are critical in addressing the psychosocial impact of bullying. The WHO global status report on violence prevention (2014) reports a widespread use of life skills and social development programmes to help children manage anger issues, resolve conflicts in a non-violent way and develop social problem-solving skills. Essential restorative approaches include child empowerment initiatives, strengthening life skills, values and participation, the provision of information and support for parents, caregivers and teachers, and whole-school and community programmes.

65. Awareness-raising and social mobilization initiatives, as well as evidence-based programming, are needed to protect children from bullying and cyberbullying. Children also need better access to information regarding the services and opportunities available for participating in empowerment and skill-building programmes that strengthen their confidence to stand up against bullying. Parents, caregivers, teachers and school personnel can play an important anti-bullying role and require support in that regard. Necessary action includes the elaboration of clear and comprehensive legislation on protection from bullying and cyberbullying, as well as further research to compile and disseminate accurate, reliable and disaggregated data.

F. Online violence, abuse and exploitation

66. Information and communications technology brings many opportunities, but also facilitates online violence, exploitation and abuse of children, in addition to cyberbullying. The amount and circulation of child sexual abuse materials on the Internet is growing. In 2015, the International Association of Internet Hotlines reported a 7 per cent increase in the usage thereof since 2014.[71] The study by the Special Representative on information and communications technologies, the Internet and violence against children, reveals that children using the Internet can be exposed to harmful information or inappropriate material. Such children can be groomed by potential predators and subjected to sexual abuse and exploitation, including through the non-consensual distribution of content produced by sexting, the production and distribution of images depicting child sexual abuse and live streaming over the Internet. Risks are amplified in certain low- and middle-income countries, as increased use is not necessarily coupled with corresponding safeguards.

67. Efforts to build a safe, inclusive and empowering digital agenda for children require that online violence and the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children be tackled through a comprehensive, multi-stakeholder approach. Key strategies include legal reform, specialized care and support services, education and awareness of online safety, and the establishment and strengthening of reporting hotlines and helplines. Key recommendations have been issued by the Special Representative,[72] as well as by the Committee on the Rights of the Child.[73]

68. The Virtual Global Taskforce and the WePROTECT Global Alliance to End Child Sexual Exploitation are Member State-led initiatives that bring together Governments, law enforcement agencies, financial institutions, the corporate sector, civil society and other stakeholders to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation online.[74] The #ENDviolence online campaign builds capacity to tackle online child sexual exploitation, alerts adolescents to online risks and empowers them to protect themselves and their peers. Safer Internet Day is an annual event that encourages global discussions related to children's online safety.[75]

69. The information and communications technology industry supports and develops technology to facilitate the detection and removal of known online child sexual abuse material and the investigation and prosecution of online crimes against children. The industry also invests in collaborative work with child rights and child protection agencies to empower and protect children.[76]

VIII. Way forward

70. Preventing and responding to violence against children is a complex, long-term challenge that requires significant and steady political mobilization and support, as well as sustained financial support. Member States, United Nations

[71] UNICEF, "Annual results report 2016"; and www.inhope.org/gns/home.aspx.

[72] Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, "Releasing children's potential and minimizing risks: ICTs, the Internet and violence against children" (New York, 2014).

[73] See the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child from the 2014 day of general discussion on children's rights and digital media. Available from www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CRC/Discussions/2014/AnnexIII_EN.docx.

[74] See www.make-it-safe.net.

[75] See www.unicef.org/endviolence and www.saferinternetday.org.

[76] See, for example, www.unicef.org/csr/ict.html.

system entities, civil society and others are working to meet this challenge with a dynamic range of initiatives at the national, regional and global levels. The process is increasingly led by Member States and showing concrete results, from legislative and policy reform to improved data collection strategies, and coordinated, multi-stakeholder efforts to tackle areas of growing concern.

71. Much more remains to be done, in particular to achieve broad-scale systemic change. Member States, United Nations system entities (especially the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC and WHO), regional bodies and others must redouble efforts to achieve targets 16.2, 5.2 and 5.3 and other violence-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. Focused and increased commitment is needed to secure resources, scale up effective programmes, increase political engagement and incite the necessary changes in behaviour. This requires Member States, Government and private sector donors, United Nations entities, civil society and other stakeholders to support efforts in the following areas:

Legislative and policy reform

72. **Member States should undertake legal reforms to ban all forms of violence against children; harmonize national legal frameworks with international human rights standards; enforce laws and establish accountability mechanisms that prevent and respond to all forms of violence against children, including those related to family and domestic violence, online abuse and exploitation and community violence.**

73. **United Nations system entities and other qualified agencies, including civil society and other humanitarian stakeholders, should provide advocacy support and policy advice for the delivery of technical assistance and building of capacities.**

Strengthening of programmes and systems

74. **Member States, United Nations system entities and other qualified agencies should promote the collection and monitoring of data, as well as innovative practices to strengthen the collection of data, disaggregated by sex and age, on violence against children, and the analysis and use thereof. Such measures should include sustainable administrative data systems and effective monitoring to track progress and impact.**

75. **Member States, with the assistance of United Nations system entities and other qualified agencies, should strengthen social systems and effective service delivery to create safe non-violent environments for children affected by violence in the education, health and justice sectors, including through the implementation of international standards, such as the INSPIRE strategies and the United Nations Model Strategies on Violence against Children.**

76. **Member States, with the assistance of United Nations system entities and other qualified agencies, should empower children and families, in particular the most vulnerable, by enhancing parenting skills and families' social inclusion and economic stability so as to reduce violence and the exploitation and abuse of children. Such efforts may include increasing children's and families' access to a good quality of health care, education and social protection, including social services and universal access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, information and education.**

77. **Member States, United Nations system entities and other qualified agencies should promote, in an appropriately differentiated manner, girls' and boys' empowerment, participation and enhanced skills in order to build their confidence to stand up against bullying and enable their protection from other forms of violence.**

78. **Private sector actors should adopt policies and operational practices that help protect children from violence, including through online abuse and exploitation, and promote children's well-being, as well as systems to foster transparency in global supply chains.**

Raising awareness and building momentum for changing social norms

79. **Member States, United Nations system entities and other qualified agencies should use interactive approaches and a mix of communication channels to encourage and sustain positive and appropriate individual behaviour, recognizing that individual behaviour is shaped by social, cultural, economic and political contexts. Such approaches involve increasing the capacities of children and families to protect themselves, while eliminating harmful practices and behaviours, as well as enhancing the provision of support in that regard.**

80. **Member States and other relevant actors should build and maintain momentum for changing social norms and practices that condone and/or promote violence against children. In time, changing such norms and practices will better protect girls and boys from violence and harmful practices, through the transformation of underlying beliefs and behaviours that perpetuate violence. Such changes involve implementing and supporting comprehensive programmes to prevent violence against children, including gender-based violence, as well as programmes to educate and build skills among children, parents, caregivers, school personnel and the public.**

Resource mobilization

81. **Member States and private sector donors should invest in scaling up proven, effective interventions and those that show promise in terms of innovation. Such interventions include programmes for improving children's mental health and psychosocial well-being, for strengthening their resilience and capacity to deal with future distress, for tackling bullying and cyberbullying through holistic and cross-sectoral approaches, and for protecting children on the move by upholding their human rights and addressing the root causes of conflict and irregular migration.**

Monitoring the implementation of target 16.2

82. **Member States, United Nations system entities and other qualified agencies should invest in the collection of quality, timely and disaggregated data and the integration of data on violence against children into national statistics systems and strategies, including multiple indicator cluster surveys, Demographic and Health Surveys and specific surveys on violence against children, as well as leverage existing monitoring and reporting mechanisms.**

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Comprehensive review of special political missions

Overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/100, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit, at its seventy-second session, a timely report on overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions, including efforts towards improving expertise and effectiveness, transparency, accountability, geographical representation, gender perspective and women's equal participation. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General, in that regard, to include relevant detailed information on those matters in the report.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 71/100, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly, at its seventy-second session, a timely report on the implementation of the resolution with regard to overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions, including efforts towards improving expertise and effectiveness, transparency, accountability, geographical representation, gender perspective and women's equal participation. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request

2. Over the past year, special political missions have continued to play diverse and critical roles in the response of the United Nations to threats to international peace and security. In ongoing conflicts, such as those in Libya, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, special political missions have played a vital role in striving to advance political transitions. In Afghanistan, Iraq and Somalia, among other countries, missions have worked to help governments and societies sustain peace and build resilient institutions, including through the provision of electoral support. Special political missions with regional mandates, including the three regional offices for Central Africa, Central Asia, and West Africa and the Sahel, have worked to identify risks early and enable coordinated, coherent and effective responses. All special political missions are working increasingly closely with regional and subregional organizations, both directly and through the strategic partnerships agendas implemented at United Nations headquarters. That includes efforts to collaborate analytically and operationally to address regionalized security threats, such as armed groups operating in the Lake Chad basin and the Sahel.

3. Since taking up office, I have made prevention a core theme that cuts across the work of all parts of the Organization. I have done so at a time when many of the goals articulated in the Charter of the United Nations and related documents are under threat, when progress is being experienced unequally around the world and when an increase in violent conflict and fragility threatens the lives of so many, leading to millions fleeing their homes. There is a need to reconceptualize and refocus our work towards not only preventing the outbreak of crises and their related grave costs, including in terms of human lives and suffering, but also the undermining of institutions and setbacks to societies' resilience and efforts to advance sustainable development. In reaching consensus on the Sustainable Development Goals, the membership of the United Nations has articulated a new collective agenda for investing in humanity's future, one that relies heavily on linking to our work in peace and security, development and human rights. I therefore see prevention as an organizing principle to drive reform, re-energize the United Nations and renew confidence in the value of the international multilateral system.

4. Special political missions have profoundly preventive dimensions, consistent with the Charter-based obligation to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war". Efforts to improve the effectiveness, transparency, accountability and representativeness of special political operations must therefore include, at their core, a focus on mission capacities to strengthen prevention of the outbreak, escalation and continuation of violent conflict, as described in the landmark twin resolutions on sustaining peace of 2016, Security Council resolution 2282 (2016) and General Assembly resolution 70/262. The resolutions, which are deeply interlinked with the objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals, provide a comprehensive conceptual picture and organizing principle around which to focus efforts to strengthen the preventive roles of special political missions. It is in that context that I have called for a surge in preventive diplomacy as part of my vision for prevention, and for a drive to strengthen mediation capacities at all levels of the

Organization. Those efforts should seek to enhance the capacities and resilience of States, institutions and societies. Within the United Nations, we will continue to enhance the work we have accomplished with regard to our internal coordination and joint analysis for early warning and prevention during the past several years.

5. The present report, the fifth to the General Assembly on overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions, covers developments during the period from 1 August 2016 to 31 July 2017. Section II focuses on key operational developments that occurred in special political missions. Section III provides detailed information on the interactive dialogue with Member States held on 26 May 2017, and its rich exchange on the role of special political missions in sustaining peace. Section IV addresses various policy issues pertaining to the missions, each of which includes details on how the Organization is striving to enhance transparency and accountability in all its work. Section V contains observations on the way forward.

II. Key developments

6. In 2016, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) provided good offices support and technical and logistical support in relation to a process that saw 12,594 selected delegates voting for members of the House of the People, while members of state assemblies elected the members of the Upper House. The members of both Houses elected Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed Farmajo as President of Somalia on 8 February 2017. UNSOM played a key role in coordinating international community support for the political process and for its overall engagement in Somalia. As part of its electoral support mandate for elections by universal suffrage, as set out in Security Council resolutions 2275 (2016) and 2358 (2017), the Mission has been providing capacity-building, technical and strategic advice to both the National Independent Electoral Commission and the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation in preparation for the 2021 elections, the review of the provisional federal constitutions and the drafting of an electoral law. UNSOM has also been supporting the Government of Somalia in the security and rule of law sectors, in particular with the development of a comprehensive approach to security, and with the establishment of a new policing model for Somalia. As part of its human rights mandate, the Mission continued to perform monitoring and capacity-building efforts.

7. Following the commencement of the new political cycle, a strategic assessment was carried out by United Nations headquarters, UNSOM and the United Nations country team to ensure that the United Nations was well configured to support the next phase of State-building in Somalia. In a letter dated 5 May 2017 (S/2017/404), I presented the results of the strategic assessment to the Security Council. The results included recommendations to renew the mandate of UNSOM as a political mission based on its core functions of providing good offices and strategic advice on peacebuilding and State-building, coordinating international support and capacity-building for Somali institutions, and monitoring and reporting on violations, while adapting to better engage in the areas of focus identified in the assessment. Those included, in particular, adapting the entire range of the UNSOM mandate in the regions in support of the federalism project, and keeping a flexible approach to the United Nations footprint, underpinned by strong joint operational planning. On 14 June 2017, the Council extended the mandate of UNSOM, on the basis of those recommendations, in its resolution 2358 (2017).

8. During the reporting period, the Office of my Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region continued to lead, monitor and report on the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the

Congo and the region. During the reporting period, the Office contributed to regional efforts to advance the implementation of the Nairobi Declaration of Commitments of 12 December 2013 at the conclusion of the Kampala Dialogue; resolve the situation of the Sudan People's Liberation Army in Opposition fighters currently in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; address the threat posed by the Allied Democratic Forces and other armed groups; and implement durable solutions for former combatants stationed in camps in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. Furthermore, together with the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Office of my Special Envoy provided good offices to assist with implementation of the political agreement of 31 December, intended to pave the way for credible and peaceful elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

9. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2248 (2015), a United Nations office in Burundi was established in Bujumbura in January 2016 to support the efforts of my Special Envoy to lead and coordinate the political efforts of the United Nations in Burundi to work with its Government and other concerned stakeholders in support of an inclusive inter-Burundian dialogue, as well as in support of national efforts to build and sustain peace. During the reporting period, the Office of the Special Envoy carried out tasks mandated in Council resolutions 2279 (2016) and 2303 (2016), which included supporting the inter-Burundian dialogue held under the auspices of the East African Community, coordinating with the East African Community's mediator and facilitator and providing technical and substantive support to the dialogue.

10. During the reporting period, South Sudan and Uganda withdrew their troops from the African Union Regional Task Force fighting the Lord's Resistance Army, and the United States of America ended the mandate of its Special Forces supporting the Regional Task Force. In the light of the renewal by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union of the Regional Task Force's mandate until 22 May 2018, taking into account the need to realign the concept of operations of the Regional Task Force with the latest developments on the ground, the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) will work with regional partners, including the African Union, to review and revise the United Nations regional strategy to combat the threat of the Lord's Resistance Army.

11. In its resolution 2349 (2017), the Security Council called upon UNOCA, the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and the United Nations Office to the African Union to redouble their support to governments in the region, and to subregional and regional organizations, to address the impact of violence carried out by Boko Haram and Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) on peace and stability in the Lake Chad basin region, including by addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and violent extremism; conducting gender-sensitive research on the drivers of radicalization for women; and analysing the impacts of counter-terrorism strategies on women's human rights and women's organizations. The Council also requested that I prepare a report on the Lake Chad basin region by 30 August 2017. UNOWAS also continues to advance the objectives of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel, including through its liaison cell in Nouakchott, which focuses on supporting the work of the Group of Five for the Sahel.

12. In December 2016, a strategic review of the key priorities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) was conducted, key conclusions of which were endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution 2343 (2017). The strategic review emphasized the need for UNIOGBIS to refocus its existing efforts towards political capacities in support of the good offices and political facilitation role of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and

recommended the streamlining of its management structure. UNIOGBIS is in the process of implementing the recommendations of the strategic review mission.

13. A strategic assessment of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) was conducted in May and June 2017 to help adjust the concept of operations and structure of the Mission to the changing realities on the ground. Those efforts will include a phased ramping up of the rotational presence of international staff in Libya while maintaining an office in Tunis. Through an integrated electoral assistance programme, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme, UNSMIL provided advice and support to the High National Elections Commission, including technical advice for the electoral elements of the constitutional drafting process and assistance with the coordination of international electoral assistance. In resolution 2362 (2017), the Council expanded the applicability of the measures in relation to attempts to illicitly export crude oil from Libya to include refined petroleum products.

14. In Colombia, the consolidation of the ceasefire and cessation of hostilities that followed the signing of a peace agreement between the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army (FARC-EP) on 24 November 2016, and the historic completion of the laying down of weapons, represented major milestones in peace implementation. The strong commitment of the parties kept the peace process on track despite numerous challenges.

15. The United Nations Mission in Colombia, authorized by the Security Council in its resolution 2261 (2016), initiated its one-year mandate on 26 September 2016 and has since verified the ceasefire, which has held remarkably well since its signing. The Mission has also monitored the movement of more than 7,000 FARC-EP members to the 26 assembly zones and points. Under United Nations verification, on 27 June 2017, FARC-EP completed the laying down of individual weapons, and it is expected that the destruction of a large number of arms caches will be completed by September, as FARC-EP begins its transition to a legal political movement. On 10 July, following a request by the parties, the Council adopted resolution 2366 (2017) establishing a follow-on mission to verify the reintegration of FARC-EP members and the implementation of security guarantees for the group and for conflict-affected communities. Its activities will begin in full on 26 September 2017 following the completion of the current mission mandate. By supporting the crucial reintegration phase, the second mission can play an important role in helping consolidate peace in Colombia.

16. The reporting period witnessed a high level of activity and unprecedented progress, but also stagnations and serious challenges in talks between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders, which were facilitated by the United Nations. In January 2017, in parallel to the bicommunal negotiations and marking a historic phase in the Cyprus talks, I opened the Conference on Cyprus. The Conference aimed to discuss the sixth and last chapter of the negotiations on security and guarantees, with the participation of the guarantor Powers (Greece, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and in the presence of the European Union as an observer (the European Union has played an enhanced role in the peace process, under United Nations auspices, to help prepare for the implementation of the European Union acquis in a future Turkish-Cypriot constituent State). However, in early July, after intense negotiations, and in consultation with the participants, I closed the Conference without an agreement having been reached, reiterating that the United Nations, as facilitator of the process, remained at the disposal of the parties.

17. During the reporting period, the Special Envoy for Syria held four rounds of intra-Syrian negotiations in Geneva on the basis of Security Council resolution 2254

(2015) and the Geneva communiqué of June 2012. The talks were guided by the substantive agenda regarding political transition issues, which was approved by the Council in March 2017. The Office of the Special Envoy established a technical consultative process so that experts of the negotiating delegations could identify commonalities on the agenda and better prepare for formal negotiations. The Office continues to host the International Syria Support Group task forces on ceasefire and humanitarian access and facilitate the participation of Syrian women and civil society in the talks through the Syrian Women's Advisory Board and the Civil Society Support Room. The Office has also provided expertise to ceasefire talks in Astana, which were not held under the United Nations umbrella.

18. In Iraq, the completion of the military campaign in Mosul sharpened the expectations and role of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). UNAMI must now focus on a number of pressing issues, in consultation with the Government of Iraq, including: promoting bilateral dialogue between key actors from Baghdad and Erbil on the planned Kurdistan referendum on 25 September 2017; facilitating efforts to reach a process of national and societal reconciliation; assisting the development of processes for holding elections; supporting accountability and justice for human rights violations and war crimes; and advising on security sector reform as well as assisting the voluntary, dignified and safe return of 3 million internally displaced persons to liberated areas.

19. In its resolution 2331 (2016), the Security Council condemned acts of trafficking, particularly the sale or trade in persons undertaken by ISIL, and expressed its intention to consider targeted sanctions for those involved in such activities. It also expressed its intention to consider targeted sanctions for individuals and entities involved in trafficking in persons in areas affected by armed conflict and for those involved in sexual violence in conflict. In its resolution 2347 (2017), the Council condemned the unlawful destruction of cultural heritage, notably by terrorist groups, and encouraged States to propose listings of those involved to the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individual, groups, undertakings and entities. Council resolution 2368 (2017) added eight names to that list.

20. On 15 June 2017, the Security Council adopted a presidential statement on Yemen (S/PRST/2017/7) calling on all parties to engage constructively with the latest proposals of the Special Envoy for Yemen with regard to: (a) increasing commercial and humanitarian shipments through Red Sea ports, including new arrangements for the management of Hudaydah port and city; and (b) resuming government salary payments and preserving essential government services in all areas of the country. The Special Envoy has continued to engage with the parties in line with the presidential statement and with a view to reviving political negotiations.

21. A strategic review of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) reaffirmed the need for continued good offices by the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon and UNIFIL in order to preserve the cessation of hostilities and make progress towards a permanent ceasefire, including by exploring confidence-building measures. The Office supported the Government of Lebanon in launching nationwide consultations in September 2016 to develop a national plan of action for the prevention of violent extremism.

22. The conflict in Afghanistan continued unabated during the reporting period. In 2016, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) documented a total of 11,418 civilian casualties, the highest since 2009. Some 650,000 individuals were newly internally displaced by the conflict, and 620,000 Afghans returned from the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan. The Government of Afghanistan secured pledges of military and civilian financial assistance from

international partners through 2020 and signed a peace agreement with an opposition armed group, Hezb-i-Islami Gulbuddin. However, there was no progress towards a peace process with the Taliban. Among its core activities, UNAMA supported the preparation of the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan; provided assistance to the electoral management bodies; supported regional initiatives to enhance economic, political and security cooperation; reported on human rights; and advocated for the implementation of the Afghan national plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security. The Government had formally requested continued United Nations electoral assistance to support Wolesi Jirga and District Council elections, and an amendment to the electoral law was gazetted in September 2016. UNAMA also provided support for the revision of the penal code, which was passed by legislative decree in May 2017 and which incorporates all the country's substantive treaty obligations.

23. The United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia is striving to maximize the impact of a variety of new entry points for encouraging regional cooperation that have emerged in the past year. The security situation in the region remains fragile.

24. In relation to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Security Council expanded existing sanctions measures in its resolutions 2270 (2016) and 2321 (2016), and introduced new measures on coal, minerals and aviation fuel. In its resolution 2356 (2017), the Council designated for sanction 14 additional individuals and 4 entities.

III. Interactive dialogue with Member States

25. In its resolution 71/100, the General Assembly requested me to hold regular, inclusive and interactive dialogue on overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions. The resolution also encouraged the Secretariat to reach out to Member States prior to the holding of such dialogue to ensure wide and meaningful participation. Following close consultations with the Bureau of the Fourth Committee, the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat organized an interactive dialogue to discuss the role of United Nations special political missions in sustaining peace. The dialogue was held on 26 May 2017.

26. In his opening remarks, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs noted that the interactive dialogue provided an opportunity to take stock of progress on clarifying, focusing and improving the contribution of special political missions to sustaining peace. The dialogue came one year after the adoption by the General Assembly and Security Council of landmark identical resolutions on sustaining peace, which introduced a new, more holistic, Charter-driven understanding of how the United Nations must orient all its efforts towards preventing conflict. In the light of the diverse mandates, configurations and areas of deployment of special political missions, the Under-Secretary-General suggested that the interactive dialogue was a unique moment to consider what steps had been and should be taken to collectively strengthen the impact of those tools as part of the forward-looking agenda for sustaining peace. The Under-Secretary-General offered a number of reflections on areas in which special political missions, and the Headquarters offices and administrative systems and procedures that support them, might need to adapt to best achieve that goal.

27. In the ensuing discussion, a number of Member States took the floor to address key themes of relevance for special political missions. The majority of speakers emphasized the importance of the sustaining peace agenda and called on the Secretariat, Member States and other partners to focus their efforts on aligning

activities across all pillars of the Organization with both the process and the objective of sustaining peace. Many also referred to my ongoing reform initiatives as well as my vision for prevention, and expressed the hope that they would enhance capacity and coherence across the United Nations in support of its efforts to sustain peace.

28. Many Member States highlighted the importance of special political missions in preventing conflict, and noted that the missions would be in large part responsible for implementing my call for a surge in preventive diplomacy. At the strategic level, a number of Member States asked that the concepts of conflict prevention and sustaining peace be further clarified, including in relation to women and youth, peace and security. At the operational level, several Member States underlined the importance of overcoming challenges to ensuring a comprehensive approach to sustaining peace across countries, sectors and pillars of the Organization. In that regard, a number of Member States highlighted the important role played by the regional offices for Central Asia, Central Africa, and West Africa and the Sahel, including with regard to promoting coherent strategies to sustain peace. Several Member States welcomed the work of regional special political missions in cooperating with regional and subregional organizations in support of conflict prevention and resolution, noting the importance of ensuring that their relationships remained dynamic and raising the subject of regular review. Several Member States highlighted the important role of early warning in conflict prevention and inquired about the steps the Secretariat had taken to strengthen its early warning mechanisms.

29. Two Member States spoke of their experiences in hosting special political missions and provided reflections on working with the Secretariat on the planning for and deployment of the missions. They emphasized that the principle of national ownership must be central to the efforts of a special political mission and that a one-size-fits-all approach to mandate and mission design should be avoided. One of the Member States highlighted the importance of regional support for the success of a mission, as well as the value in ensuring gender balance among the personnel within missions. Another suggested that the sustaining peace agenda provided an important conceptual basis for promoting inclusive dialogue and for envisioning sustainable and peaceful futures for countries in transition.

30. Finally, many Member States expressed concern that special political missions continued to struggle for sufficient and sustainable funding. Given the increasing importance afforded to prevention by Member States and the Secretariat alike, several expressed the hope that ongoing efforts to achieve savings in other areas of the Organization's work could lead to modest increases in support to special political missions. Some Member States also highlighted the need for the General Assembly to address the issue of funding and backstopping arrangements for special political missions.

IV. Key policy issues pertaining to special political missions

Enhancing expertise and effectiveness in preventing conflict and sustaining peace

31. As noted earlier, special political missions are among the most important set of preventive tools available to the Organization. Regional political offices are widely recognized as effective forward platforms for preventive diplomacy, while my Special Envoys, Representatives and Advisers help national and international actors resolve a wide variety of issues, from territorial questions to regional conflicts, constitutional and electoral crises, reunification negotiations and peace talks. Field-based operational missions sustain preventive efforts across a range of disciplines, such as demobilization, disarmament and reintegration, security sector reform and human rights, to help prevent and resolve conflict, support complex political

transitions and sustain peace in coordination with national actors and United Nations development, humanitarian and human rights entities. They are therefore a critical example of prevention that bridges the work of the three pillars of the Organization. Regular public reporting on human rights by special political missions has served as a key early warning tool and generated momentum for early preventive action. All of those tools pursue the immediate objective of mitigating the triggers and effects of violent conflict while also seeking to consolidate peace and move towards the longer-term goals of prevention and sustainable peace.

32. Our efforts to strengthen the work of special political missions in preventing conflict and sustaining peace build on important ongoing reform efforts within the Organization's peace and security architecture. The report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (A/70/95-S/2015/446) and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of its recommendations (A/70/357-S/2015/682) featured a number of important areas of work to increase the effectiveness of peace operations, including special political missions, in preventing conflict and sustaining peace. In line with the recommendations of the High-level Independent Panel, I continue to explore with regional and national partners the establishment of regional offices in the regions of North Africa, West Asia and Southern Africa.

33. On 19 February 2016, a report of the Secretary-General was submitted to the General Assembly (A/70/745) that contained a detailed proposal on ways to continue to strengthen the Organization's work in the area of conflict prevention and mediation, including ways to improve political analysis, build closer partnerships with regional and subregional organizations, strengthen early warning capacity and planning tools to translate early warning information into early action and increase technical expertise on conflict prevention and mediation, in particular with regard to women, peace and security, and local and national mediation.

34. As we continue to seek opportunities to render the United Nations more responsive, efficient and effective in preventing conflict and sustaining peace, the agendas for the reform and strengthening of peace operations, including special political missions, will remain central to the Organization's efforts to transform its vision for prevention into a reality.

Regional partnerships

35. Collaboration and communication with regional and subregional organizations is critical to the success of the United Nations in preventing conflict and sustaining peace. The preventive role of special political missions should always support, not serve as a substitute for, regional and local efforts to achieve peace. Working in tandem with regional and subregional organizations can improve the collective knowledge, analysis, reach and influence in our conflict prevention, mediation and peacebuilding efforts. Moreover, regional actors are often better positioned to detect potential crises early and to mobilize coordinated international responses. Partnerships between the United Nations and regional organizations must therefore be based on the principles of transparency, mutual accountability and comparative advantage, including in terms of identifying lead and supporting operational roles, burden-sharing and the sequencing of activities and deployments.

36. During the past year, significant progress has been made in strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and African Union in conflict prevention, mediation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. The United Nations Office to the African Union continued to serve a catalytic role in the partnership while servicing the Departments of Political Affairs, Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support of the Secretariat. The Security Council adopted decisions, most notably resolution

2320 (2016), to enable timely responses to disputes and emerging crises in partnership with the African Union, while its Peace and Security Council, in its communiqués of 29 September 2016 and 30 May 2017, commended the significant progress over the past five years and reiterated the need to render that cooperation increasingly predictable, systematic and strategic. In January 2017, I delivered my first address to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, taking the opportunity to renew the commitment of the United Nations to enhance this important partnership on the basis of solidarity and respect.

37. On 19 April 2017, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, and I convened the first United Nations-African Union Annual Conference to discuss the most pressing peace and security issues in Africa, and to help enhance political coherence and facilitate, as much as possible, convergence in decision-making. At the occasion, the Chairperson and I signed the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, which provides a comprehensive strategic vision for a stronger partnership to address the peace and security challenges across the continent.

38. African Union member States have also started implementing the decision relating to the Peace Fund endorsed by the twenty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Kigali in July 2016, with regard to greater self-reliance and burden-sharing for African Union peace efforts, especially the funding of 25 per cent of the costs of its peace support operations by 2020. That decision is critical to enhancing the capacity of the African Union to effectively partner with the United Nations in addressing peace and security challenges in Africa. I therefore welcome the decision, and encourage the Security Council to actively support the process by agreeing on sustained, predictable and flexible mechanisms to support African Union peace operations.

39. The partnership between the United Nations and the European Union on peace and security is characterized by strategic and operational cooperation, underpinned by a policy framework that has been in place since 2003 and facilitated by the United Nations Liaison Office for Peace and Security in Brussels. The foreign and security policy of the European Union, as outlined in its global strategy adopted in June 2016, identifies the United Nations as a core partner and seeks close coordination, particularly in countries where Common Security and Defence Policy missions operate alongside United Nations peace operations, such as in the Central African Republic, Libya, Mali and Somalia. The European Union Political and Security Committee held its annual informal meeting with the Security Council in June 2017, where conflict prevention emerged as a top priority for both organizations, particularly with regard to mediation, security sector reform and the prevention of violent extremism. The discussion built on the third iteration of the United Nations-European Union dialogue on conflict prevention, which was held in March 2017.

40. The United Nations Liaison Office for Peace and Security in Vienna, established in October 2016 with extrabudgetary funds and representing the Department of Political Affairs, has led to a marked improvement of coordination between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), fostering closer links with key parts of the OSCE secretariat and the Chairperson-in-Office. The Liaison Office also services the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support, enabling the effective channelling of support and best practices of the three departments to the OSCE secretariat on a broad range of issues, and vice versa. Operationally, the United Nations continues to cooperate closely with OSCE in its role, together with the European Union, as co-chair of the Geneva international discussions, a unique framework that brings together the United Nations, the European Union and OSCE in a conflict prevention

and resolution mechanism. Since 2011, the role of the United Nations in this configuration has been fulfilled by the United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions.

41. With many special political missions operating across the Middle East and North Africa, cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States remains critical. The United Nations has continued working with the League towards the opening of a United Nations liaison office in Cairo, following the 24 September 2016 signing by the Secretaries-General of both organizations of the protocol of amendment of the text of the cooperation agreement between the United Nations and the League of Arab States. The United Nations continues to pursue dialogue with the Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and, in May 2017, the Department of Political Affairs and OIC held a senior-level brainstorming session on the political and security situation in the Middle East in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, with the participation of regional special political missions and peacekeeping operations, as well as representatives from United Nations headquarters. Another brainstorming session on Africa is planned for the end of 2017. The three entities have also collaborated on a number of electoral initiatives, including the training of electoral staff, the managing of electoral databases and the holding of institutional memory and knowledge-sharing events for electoral practitioners.

42. In addition to those partnerships, the United Nations will continue to work evermore closely with other regional and subregional organizations, including through liaison presences, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the South African Development Community.

Women, peace and security

43. Special political missions play an increasingly important role in the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda. In their areas of deployment, missions spearhead many of the United Nations-led efforts to promote women's participation in peace processes and to mainstream gender into the Organization's political and conflict prevention work. A total of 25 gender advisers are now active in 11 Department of Political Affairs-led field missions, a dramatic increase from 2015, when only six missions had full-time gender expertise. Recent deployments included gender advisers to the Offices of the Special Envoys for Syria and the Great Lakes Region and the United Nations Mission in Colombia, while UNAMI deployed a Women's Protection Adviser to work on conflict-related sexual violence.

44. The deployment of dedicated gender expertise has had a catalytic impact on the capacity of special political missions to effectively mainstream gender into their work, as well as on the capacity of United Nations headquarters. Since 2014, all reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on the work of special political missions have contained text on gender/women, peace and security and data disaggregated by sex, and more than half have also included recommendations specific to women, peace and security. To enable greater oversight, transparency and accountability on peace operations and women, peace and security issues, in 2016 the Council established an Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security, which, during the reporting period, met with the senior leadership of special political missions to discuss the situation of women in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Lake Chad basin and Yemen.

45. In February 2017, the Department of Political Affairs, in close coordination with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), convened the first joint workshop for gender advisers in Entebbe, Uganda. The workshop brought together 39 gender advisers and focal points from

field missions and UN-Women country offices. The workshop helped strengthen cooperation on women, peace and security matters between the entities and allowed participants to exchange ideas, good practices and lessons learned for effective implementation of the women, peace and security mandate.

46. Special political missions have continued to foster an increase in the number of women participating in peacemaking efforts, as well as transparency on the gender makeup and dynamics of such efforts. UNSMIL, for example, has begun systematically collecting and updating data on women's participation in the political dialogue and the Government of National Accord. The efforts included a study on women's leadership that provided baseline data on women in decision-making positions within the current governance structures in Libya.

47. The United Nations Mission in Colombia has facilitated dialogue spaces for women's organizations and members of the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism, which includes members of the Government, FARC-EP and United Nations observers. Women's involvement in the work of the Mechanism has contributed to building confidence in the peace process among both the members of the Mechanism and of local communities.

48. In the Syrian Arab Republic, the Syrian Women's Advisory Board to the Special Envoy for Syria has continued to work to ensure that gender perspectives are considered throughout the political process. Since 2017, the Office of the Special Envoy has been systematically tracking the number of women in the delegations participating in the intra-Syrian talks, their substantive roles, gender dynamics and how they advance the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda.

49. During the reporting period, UNIOGBIS provided support to the training and establishment of four regional women's mediation networks, which will be integrated into local peace structures that have been traditionally composed of mostly male, religious and elder chiefs of the communities. The UNIOGBIS training programme aims to build the capacities of 145 women in total.

Electoral assistance

50. Special political missions continue to respond to the evolving nature of electoral mandates. In particular, during the reporting period, the Department of Political Affairs, as the General Assembly-mandated focal point for electoral assistance, increasingly received requests for targeted, medium- and long-term expert assistance aimed at supporting and strengthening the existing capacities of national electoral institutions. In addition, the Department received requests for advice on creating an environment conducive to credible elections. United Nations technical assistance and capacity-building activities were often provided in parallel with preventive diplomacy and other conflict prevention activities of the United Nations to encourage consensus with regard to establishing the legal electoral framework, focusing on inclusion and non-discrimination and encouraging broad participation. Special political missions that have electoral mandates continue to ensure that all United Nations electoral assistance policies and activities are gender-sensitive and include key components that promote women's political participation. For example, in Afghanistan, the Department of Political Affairs advised the Special Commission on Electoral Reform on changes to the electoral system, including ways to increase women's participation through the use of quotas and other temporary special measures.

51. In countries that host special political missions, electoral assistance is delivered in a fully integrated manner, under the mission lead, irrespective of whether the mission is structurally integrated. United Nations agencies, funds and programmes contribute significantly to the implementation of electoral assistance mandates.

Safety and security

52. During the reporting period, a significant number of field-based special political missions operated in environments that were highly volatile and were in many areas marred by serious security challenges, including active and ongoing military conflicts. While field-based special political missions continued to feature prominently among the mechanisms employed by the United Nations to support the facilitation of peace agreements and their implementation, those circumstances factored significantly into their overall field posture, requiring continuous attention and, on many occasions, significant investments to minimize the risk exposure of United Nations personnel, operations and assets.

53. Most of United Nations personnel employed by the special political missions are based or operate in areas of high-intensity conflict, including situations in which United Nations personnel are directly targeted or armed groups operate. Those environments include Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. Also, non-field-based personnel, such as experts supporting the work of the Security Council, are often deployed to volatile environments. The incidents resulting in the loss of life of United Nations experts in Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as the attacks against United Nations convoys in Libya and Yemen, are stark examples. The Organization has been working to address those incidents, including through working with relevant government authorities on fact-finding investigations into the incidents.

54. Those contexts present an increasing and direct challenge to the Organization's ability to "stay and deliver". The Department of Political Affairs and the special political missions periodically engage with the Department of Safety and Security to review risk management strategies in order to adapt and minimize their impact on mandate delivery. Special political missions rely primarily on host governments for protection, which at times have had a less than adequate capacity to deliver security services. In order to address those issues, over the past several years the Organization has implemented a number of mitigation measures for ensuring the security of special political mission personnel and assets in the field in order to enable missions to stay and deliver. Examples include the deployment of United Nations civilian security personnel, increased cooperation with regional partners that have military personnel on the ground, the deployment of guard units provided by Member States and the employment of private security companies where appropriate and in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions.

55. In volatile environments, a heightened risk of attack against United Nations personnel may lead to a reduction in mission movements, coupled with a heavy static security posture. Heightened security measures, while necessary, may limit options for outreach, thereby reducing direct engagement with local communities. In order to strike the right balance, members of senior management of the special political missions are implementing, where applicable and in coordination with the respective country teams, the programme criticality framework developed by the High-level Working Group on Programme Criticality to allow for informed decision-making with regard to acceptable risk for United Nations personnel.

56. Moreover, the presence of special political missions in highly volatile settings has a significant budgetary impact on the special political missions. Security-related costs and associated mitigation measures constitute one of the main components of their budgets.

57. The United Nations Secretariat Safety and Security Integration Project, led by the Department of Safety and Security, continues to progress with the support of the Departments of Political Affairs, Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support (see

General Assembly resolution 70/104 and A/70/383), among others. The project aims to bring the Secretariat's security workforce under the primary management authority of the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security in order to achieve greater effectiveness in the delivery of safety and security services to enable the Organization's activities. The approach is expected to be beneficial for special political missions in terms of quality of service and effective use of resources, both of which are crucial to enabling operations in the continuously evolving security environment.

Geographical distribution and gender representation

58. Improving the representation of women throughout the Organization, including in field-based special political missions, is one of my highest priorities. As of May 2017, 32.1 per cent of internationally recruited staff serving in the missions were women, an increase of 3 per cent over the previous year. Among locally recruited staff in those missions, 15.3 per cent were women, a modest improvement of 2 per cent over the previous year. While that represents a continuation of the generally positive trend in women's representation among international personnel serving with field-based special political missions, the rate of improvement is inadequate.

59. The ongoing reform efforts within the organization will include a road map with benchmarks and time frames aimed at reaching full gender parity at the Under-Secretary-General and Assistant Secretary-General levels by the end of my tenure, and reaching full gender parity in the Organization at all levels by 2026, with an understanding that there will be some outliers who, owing to their starting points, may only reach parity by 2028. I intend to submit a report on the issue to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session.

60. Similarly, geographic diversity in the Organization is a fundamental requirement for its success. As of May 2017, the distribution of the 1,352 internationally recruited staff serving in the missions administered by the Department of Field Support were as follows: 23.7 per cent from the African Group, 22.6 per cent from the Asia-Pacific Group, 11.9 per cent from the Eastern European Group, 7.2 per cent from the Latin American and Caribbean Group and 34.5 per cent from the Group of Western European and other States. Of the 2,022 locally recruited staff, 12.9 per cent were from the African Group, 82.1 per cent from the Asia-Pacific Group, 0.001 per cent from the Eastern European Group, 3.2 per cent from the Latin American and Caribbean Group and 1.7 per cent from the Group of Western European and other States.

V. Observations

61. In the present report, I have emphasized the centrality of the special political missions in achieving my vision for the future of the Organization and, more broadly and importantly, vis-à-vis the expectations set out in the Charter and the mandates provided by the different governing bodies of the United Nations. To do so, the Secretariat and Member States must continue to strive to rethink, adapt and modernize the ways in which we design, employ and support such tools in a changing global landscape.

62. In the face of an increasingly interdependent world, we must ensure that threats are understood at a regional level and that the efforts of special political missions, whether in lead or supporting roles, are part of a comprehensive approach to sustaining our engagement in international peace and security. The significant progress made in recent years to strengthen cooperation with regional and subregional organizations must be sustained and built upon to maximize

comparative advantages, tap into deep understandings of regional political dimensions and local networks and build joint analysis and early warning capacity. After having signed the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, I look forward to working closely with the African Union and Member States to help advance conflict prevention and resolution on the continent of Africa.

63. On the ground, missions must ensure that their efforts reflect a deep understanding of, engagement with and buy-in of the people they are mandated to help, as highlighted by the report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (A/70/95-S/2015/446) and the report of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture (A/69/968-S/2015/490). As more than 90 per cent of special political mission personnel continue to work in non-permissive security environments, we must adapt, invest and explore innovative approaches to working effectively in challenging security contexts. Finally, achieving the full potential of special political missions as tools of international peace and security will require adequate, transparent and responsive financing, backstopping and administrative support arrangements.

64. Turning those aspirations into reality will require sustained commitment to reform and renewal in the Organization. In that regard, the reform streams I have initiated, including the reviews of the United Nations peace and security architecture and management and field support arrangements, seek to achieve greater transparency, accountability and effectiveness in our operations, including special political missions. I look forward to working closely with Member States, including through the General Assembly and its Fourth Committee, to move that agenda ahead so that we can ensure special political missions remain an effective, efficient tool for the prevention of conflict and for sustaining peace in years to come.

Annex

United Nations special political missions (as at 1 August 2017)

Special Envoys

1. Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus
2. Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide
3. Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara
4. Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004)
5. United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions
6. Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria
7. Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan
8. Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region
9. Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen
10. Special Envoy to the Secretary-General to lead and coordinate the political efforts of the United Nations in Burundi

Sanctions panels and monitoring groups

11. Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea
12. Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo
13. Panel of Experts on the Sudan
14. Panel of Experts on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
15. Panel of Experts on Libya
16. Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic
17. Panel of Experts on Yemen
18. Panel of Experts on South Sudan
19. Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1526 (2004) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities
20. Implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015)
21. Support for the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)
22. Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate

Field-based missions

23. Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon
24. Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process
25. United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
26. United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

27. United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia
28. United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau
29. United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa
30. United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel
31. United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia
32. United Nations Office to the African Union
33. United Nations support team to the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission
34. United Nations Support Mission in Libya
35. United Nations Mission in Colombia

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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Central Emergency Response Fund

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides a description of the activities of the Central Emergency Response Fund carried out from 1 January to 31 December 2016, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/127. The Fund has continued to demonstrate its value in supporting targeted life-saving assistance to people experiencing humanitarian crises. During the reporting period, the Emergency Relief Coordinator approved $438.9 million for 439 projects in 47 countries. In addition, a loan of nearly $8 million was approved from the Fund's loan facility. As at 31 December 2016, the Fund had received $426.3 million for 2016, which is just under 95 per cent of its annual target of $450 million. The shortfall was attributable in part to a strong United States dollar vis-à-vis core donor currencies. In December 2016, in order to meet rising humanitarian needs, the Assembly adopted resolution 71/127, in which it called for increasing voluntary contributions to the Fund in order to achieve an annual funding level of $1 billion by 2018.

* A/72/150.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/127 on strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the detailed use of the Central Emergency Response Fund. The activities carried out by the Fund from 1 January to 31 December 2016 are covered in the report.

II. Overview of the funding commitments of the fund

2. In 2016, the Emergency Relief Coordinator approved grants totalling $438.9 million for humanitarian assistance in 47 countries (see table 1). Allocations included $288.9 million under the rapid response window and nearly $150 million for underfunded crises through the underfunded emergencies window. The Coordinator also approved a loan of $8 million to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in October 2016 to respond to the cholera epidemic in Haiti, and a loan of $20 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in November 2016 to provide essential health-care services and food assistance in the Agency's five fields of operation. Between the inception of the Fund in 2005 and the end of 2016, the Fund has provided $4.6 billion for humanitarian assistance in more than 98 countries. Grants are allocated to United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies. These are referred to collectively as "agencies" in the present report.

Table 1
Central Emergency Response Fund allocations from 1 January to 31 December 2016
(United States dollars)

	Rapid response window	*Underfunded emergencies window*	*Total*
Amount approved	288 984 456	149 937 717	438 922 173
Number of recipient countries or territories	43	15	47[a]
Number of projects funded	309	130	439

[a] Certain countries or territories received allocations from both funding windows.

3. In accordance with the Secretary-General's bulletin ST/SGB/2010/5, at least two thirds of the Fund's grant allocations are intended for disbursement through its rapid response window. Allocations from this window promote early response to humanitarian needs by funding critical, life-saving humanitarian activities in the initial stages of a sudden-onset crisis or in the case of a significant deterioration of an existing emergency. During the reporting period, the Fund provided $288.9 million to 43 countries through the rapid response window (see table 2). The countries that received the largest levels of funding through the rapid response window were Iraq ($33.4 million), Nigeria ($23.5 million), South Sudan ($20.8 million), the Sudan ($17.6 million) and Somalia ($12.9 million). In Iraq, Nigeria, South Sudan and the Sudan, funds went largely towards assisting people affected by conflict and displacement. For example, in Iraq, allocations provided life-saving assistance to people displaced by fighting in Fallujah. In Somalia, the rapid response funds helped people affected by drought as well as people affected by a cholera outbreak. Overall, $168.9 million in rapid response funding assisted

conflict-affected people; $106.9 million was for humanitarian assistance related to climatic events and natural disasters (drought, storms, floods and earthquakes); $12.8 million supported rapid response to health emergencies; and $0.3 million was allocated in response to serious outbreaks of locusts against crops.

Table 2
Rapid response window allocations by country
(United States dollars)

Country	*Total allocations*
Afghanistan	9 782 398
Angola	7 989 386
Bangladesh	4 890 038
Cameroon	4 187 543
Central African Republic	2 985 563
Chad	9 991 552
Congo	2 366 915
Côte d'Ivoire	1 965 416
Cuba	5 352 736
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	5 054 519
Democratic Republic of the Congo	5 594 179
Djibouti	1 972 054
Ecuador	7 501 349
Ethiopia	9 491 863
Fiji	8 022 382
Guatemala	4 829 690
Guinea	2 971 319
Haiti	10 383 240
Iraq	33 354 244
Jordan	9 377 520
Kenya	962 943
Lao People's Democratic Republic	328 811
Lesotho	4 782 918
Madagascar	5 988 888
Malawi	1 437 503
Mongolia	2 442 974
Mozambique	4 679 803
Myanmar	3 570 457
Nepal	1 942 999
Niger	4 989 275
Nigeria	23 483 769
Papua New Guinea	4 736 155
Rwanda	4 218 944
Somalia	12 885 332
South Sudan	20 823 623
Sri Lanka	4 320 080
Sudan	17 644 007

Country	*Total allocations*
Swaziland	3 141 908
Timor-Leste	846 703
Uganda	10 297 497
Tanzania	1 498 097
Viet Nam	3 897 864
Yemen	2 000 000
Total	**288 984 456**

4. Up to one third of the Fund's allocations are intended for underfunded emergencies. These allocations are made in two rounds during the year and allow partners to carry out life-saving activities in places where humanitarian assistance is chronically underfunded. Such an approach addresses critical humanitarian need and helps draw attention to funding gaps and to places where donor interest may have waned. In 2016, the Emergency Relief Coordinator approved nearly $150 million through the underfunded emergencies window for efforts in 15 countries. Ninety-three per cent of the funds provided through this window went to assist people affected by conflict and displacement in West and Central Africa, East Africa, North Africa and Yemen. The highest amounts were for response to crises in Uganda ($18 million, for refugees), Mali ($16 million, for ongoing displacement), Yemen ($13 million, for displacement), Burundi ($13 million, for refugees) and Libya ($12 million, for conflict and displacement).

5. A total of $100 million was allocated in the first round in February and $50 million in the second round in August (see table 3). The Fund's first underfunded emergencies allocation round provided life-saving assistance to people in nine countries. To address needs stemming from displacement crises in East and Central Africa, the Fund allocated $64 million for aid for 1.7 million people in Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, the Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. In addition to that amount, $28 million went to address the humanitarian needs of about 800,000 people affected by conflict, displacement and food insecurity in Libya and Mali, and another $8 million funded humanitarian responses in the People's Democratic Republic of Korea (including assistance for 1.8 million children under 5 years of age and 350,000 pregnant and lactating women). All but $8 million of the first-round allocations was for displacement-related relief efforts. Second-round allocations of $50 million funded displacement-related relief in four countries in Central Africa and Yemen, as well as a variety of health and nutrition services for people affected by drought in Eritrea. About 2 million people were targeted by the second round of funding. United Nations agencies and their local implementing partners provided treatment for malnutrition, access to health care, protection against water-borne diseases and food security assistance to displaced people, among other services and support.

Table 3
Underfunded emergency window allocations by country

(United States dollars)

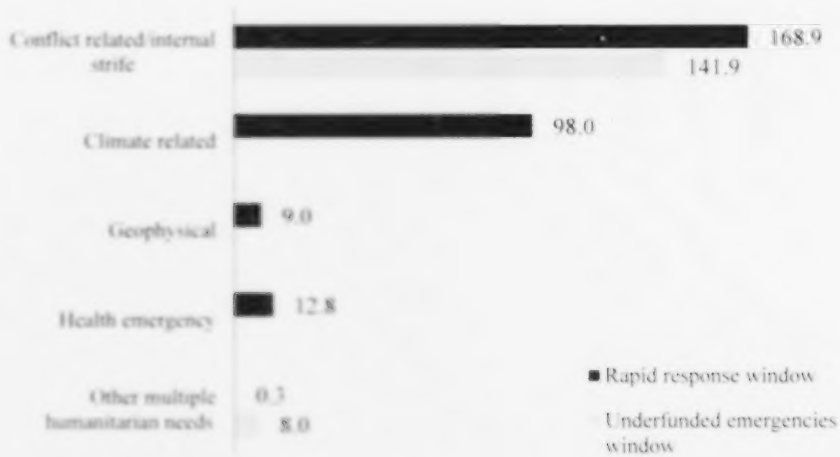
Country	*Round I*	*Round II*	*Total*
Burundi	12 985 955		12 985 955
Central African Republic		8 999 815	8 999 815
Chad		10 000 551	10 000 551

Country	*Round I*	*Round II*	*Total*
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	8 000 692		8 000 692
Democratic Republic of the Congo		10 995 505	10 995 505
Eritrea		2 002 599	2 002 599
Ethiopia	10 991 119		10 991 119
Kenya	3 998 746		3 998 746
Libya	11 989 024		11 989 024
Mali	15 999 980		15 999 980
Rwanda		4 998 778	4 998 778
Sudan	6 991 425		6 991 425
Uganda	18 000 027		18 000 027
United Republic of Tanzania	10 994 664		10 994 664
Yemen		12 988 837	12 988 837
Total	**99 951 632**	**49 986 085**	**149 937 717**

6. In 2016, partners used Fund allocations to assist people facing a range of humanitarian emergencies (see figure I). A full $310.8 million — or nearly 71 per cent of funds — went to projects aiding people affected by conflict or internal strife. The countries with the highest levels of funding for such assistance were Iraq ($33.4 million), Uganda ($28.3 million), the Sudan ($24.6 million), Nigeria ($23.1 million) and South Sudan ($20.8 million).

Figure I
Central Emergency Response Fund, allocations by emergency type in 2016

(Millions of United States dollars)



7. Displacement was the primary emergency type that received the largest assistance from the Fund in 2016. The second major focus in 2016, as was the case in 2015, was on climate-related humanitarian assistance. A total of $98 million was allocated for assistance related to meteorological, hydrological and climatological events. That allocation was less than in 2015, when the Fund provided substantial support to initiate humanitarian action for people suffering the effects of El Niño, but it was still considerably higher than allocations in 2014. The allocations in 2016

went to 21 countries of diverse contexts and across all regions of operation. More than $52 million was provided in response to drought emergencies that were largely linked to El Niño. In addition, $7.5 million was allocated to respond to the earthquake in Ecuador in April 2016.

8. In terms of sectors, slightly more than one quarter of allocated funds ($122.4 million) was for food security interventions, including food aid ($100.5 million) and agriculture and livelihoods support, including livestock ($21.9 million). In addition, $44.4 million was allocated for nutrition assistance, bringing the total for food security and nutrition to $166.8 million, or 38 per cent of fund allocations, which is similar to the percentage allocated to those sectors in 2015 (40 per cent) (see figure II).

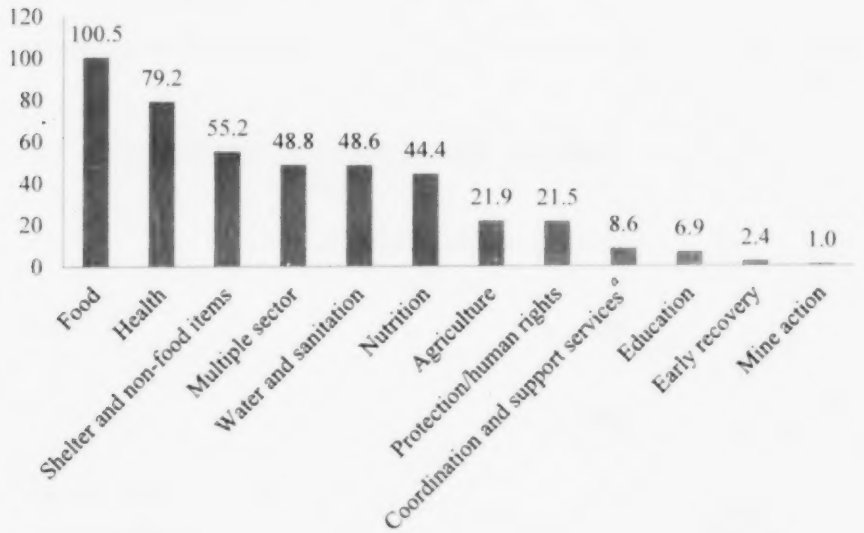
9. In 2016, $79.2 million was allocated to health-related interventions, including $54.8 million for conflict-related emergencies, $10.4 million for climate-related crises and $10.2 million for disease outbreaks. A total of $55.2 million was allocated for interventions involving the provision of shelter and non-food items.

10. A total of $48.6 million was allocated for water and sanitation-related humanitarian response in 2016. About $30.6 million of that amount was allocated for conflict-related crises and $13.8 million for climate-related interventions. In 2016, the Fund provided $8.6 million for camp coordination, staff safety and security, logistics and telecommunications and humanitarian air services.

Figure II

Central Emergency Response Fund, grant allocations by sector in 2016

(Millions of United States dollars)



* Coordination and support services include camp coordination and camp management, common humanitarian air service, common logistics, common telecommunications and safety and security of staff and operations.

11. Humanitarian response in Africa to meet the extensive needs arising primarily from conflict and the impact of climate change received the highest level and share of funding by region again in 2016. A total of $295.3 million was allocated for addressing humanitarian need in Africa, representing 67.3 per cent of all allocations

in 2016, up significantly from 52.3 per cent of allocations in 2015. Allocations were primarily in response to needs stemming from conflict ($197.3 million) and internal strife ($44.9 million). In line with the relatively high percentage of 2016 funding to climate-related emergencies, in particularly in response to drought, allocations to address climate-induced needs in Africa accounted for $40.7 million, or 14 per cent, of all allocations in Africa. Of the total allocations for response in Africa, $123.8 million was for food security and nutrition interventions, which is similar to the $120.7 million allocated for these sectors in 2015. A total of $43.3 million was allocated for health interventions (compared with $24.5 million in 2015). Allocations for shelter also nearly doubled, from $14.9 million in 2015 to $28.5 million in 2016.

12. A total of $57.8 million was allocated to address humanitarian needs in Asia and the Pacific in 2016, compared with $77.5 million in 2015. Nearly 65 per cent of allocations in 2016 was for climate-related needs. People in three countries in Asia that had never before benefited from allocations from the Fund did so for the first time in 2016. This was attributable to climate-related needs stemming from drought (Papua New Guinea and Viet Nam) and tropical cyclones (Fiji).

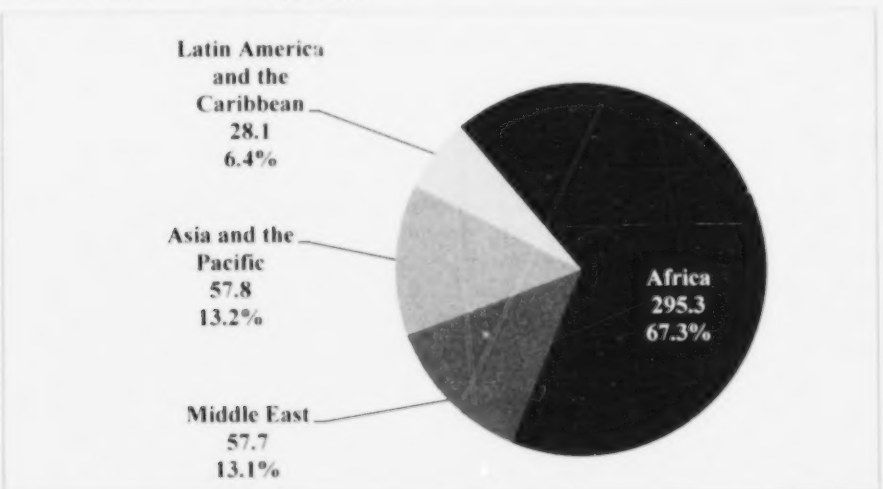
13. United Nations organizations in Ecuador also received Fund allocations for the first time in 2016, in response to the April earthquake. Projects in Latin America and the Caribbean received $28.1 million from the Fund, all of which went for response to natural disasters, including the earthquake in Ecuador, Hurricane Matthew in Cuba and Haiti (October) and drought conditions in Guatemala.

14. Humanitarian action in the Middle East (Iraq, Jordan and Yemen) received $57.7 million from the Fund in 2016, compared with $122.7 million in 2015 — a year in which Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen were the top recipients of Fund allocations. In 2015, the Fund played a critical role in scaling up the response to the intensifying conflict in Yemen, with $44.3 million in rapid-response grants. As growing needs outpaced resources in 2016, the Fund supported Yemen again in 2016, with $12 million from the underfunded emergencies window and $2 million to jump-start urgent response to a cholera outbreak.

Figure III

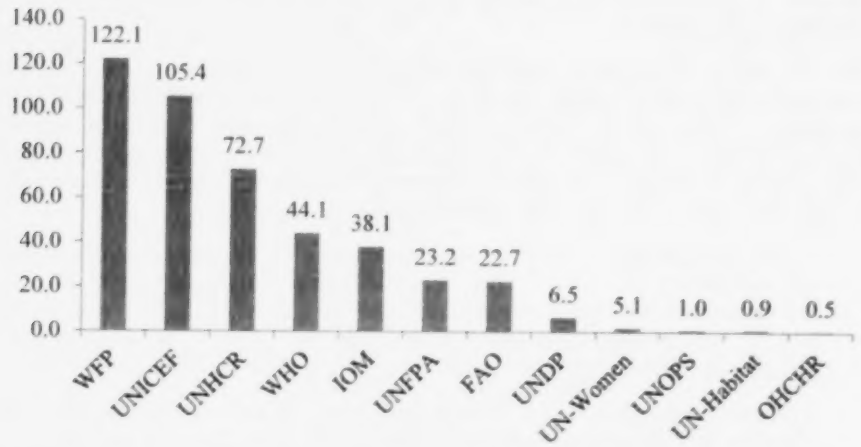
Central Emergency Response Fund, grant allocations by region in 2016

(Millions of United States dollars and percentage)



15. The agencies receiving the largest total amounts of Fund allocations in 2016 were the World Food Programme ($122.1 million for 71 projects in 39 countries); UNICEF ($105.4 million for 126 projects in 43 countries); and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) ($72.7 million for 48 projects in 23 countries) (see figure IV).

Figure IV
Central Emergency Response Fund, grant allocations by agency in 2016
(Millions of United States dollars)



Abbreviations: FAO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; IOM, International Organization for Migration; OHCHR, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; UNDP, United Nations Development Programme; UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund; UN-Habitat, United Nations Human Settlements Programme; UNHCR, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; UNICEF, United Nations Children's Fund; UNOPS, United Nations Office for Project Services; UN-Women, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women; WFP, World Food Programme; and WHO, World Health Organization.

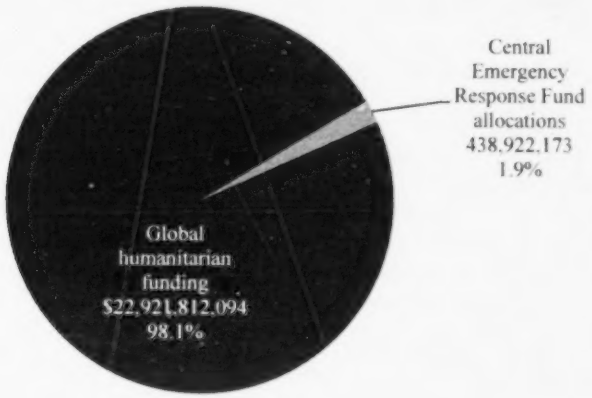
16. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/119, the Fund maintains a $30 million loan facility to provide loans to eligible organizations while they are mobilizing resources. In 2016, the Fund provided a loan of $8 million to UNICEF to respond to cholera in Haiti.

III. Use of the fund

17. Global humanitarian needs reached record levels in 2016. Humanitarian crises affected some 130 million people around the world, most of whom were experiencing needs which had arisen as a result of armed conflicts. Global humanitarian funding for 2016 reached $22.9 billion, and the Fund's disbursements represented 1.9 per cent of that funding (see figure V), compared with 2.3 per cent in 2015.

Figure V
Central Emergency Response Fund, allocations as a percentage of global funding in 2016

(United States dollars and percentage)



Source: Financial Tracking Service of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

18. The Fund continued to respond to the most critical needs of crisis-affected people in 2016. The Fund's unique added value is reflected in the ability of the Emergency Relief Coordinator to prioritize assistance activity on the basis of the greatest needs of the moment. This focus on people most in need requires joint planning and prioritization by humanitarian country teams, including humanitarian partners and resident coordinators/humanitarian coordinators. This approach reinforces the collective needs assessment and planning processes to ensure a more strategic use of Fund allocations in each emergency.

19. In addition to directly meeting urgent humanitarian needs, Fund allocations also help to highlight new and emerging crises and draw attention to situations where there is a dire need for funding for humanitarian action.

A. Central Emergency Response Fund and the global displacement crisis: funds for urgent relief across countries and contexts

20. In 2016, the Fund allocated $285 million for humanitarian assistance related to displacement, or 65 per cent of all allocations, which is similar to the proportion allocated to displacement-related response in 2015. The figures reflect a phenomenon of global displacement that has left more than 65 million people displaced largely as a result of conflict or violence, either within their own countries or as refugees or asylum seekers elsewhere. Furthermore, there were 24.2 million new displacements in 2016 resulting from disasters around the world.

21. Displacement in 2016 was not unique to any one country or regional humanitarian situation. Fund allocations related to displacement funded relief efforts in 23 countries and were provided through the rapid response window and the underfunded emergencies windows. Allocations related to displacement-induced needs were the highest in Uganda ($28.3 million), the Sudan ($24.6 million), Nigeria ($23.1 million), Ethiopia ($20.5 million) and Iraq ($18.4 million).

22. Allocations related to displacement were concentrated in the following sectors: food security ($65.5 million), health ($43.5 million), multisector refugee assistance ($38 million), shelter and non-food items ($32.4 million) and nutrition ($21.8 million). Protection-related allocations in displacement contexts were $14.8 million.

23. The examples set out below serve to illustrate how Fund allocations helped to make a difference in people's lives across countries and within different contexts of displacement through rapid response funding and the underfunded emergencies window.

24. When security forces in Iraq moved to retake the city of Fallujah in mid-2016, the intense fighting caused 85,500 of the city's residents to flee their homes. About 150,000 people faced extreme shortages of food, clean drinking water, medicine and electricity. High temperatures compounded the challenges to basic survival. Humanitarian agencies had prepared contingency plans for such a situation but the scale of the crisis surpassed estimates, necessitating additional resources. In mid-July, the Fund provided $15 million for humanitarian aid to Fallujah and the surrounding areas of Anbar and Salah al-Din Governorate through the rapid response window. The funding allowed UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM and WHO to assist about 150,000 people with emergency health care, shelter and relief supplies, water and sanitation services, food assistance, protection services and camp management and coordination.

25. To address needs stemming from displacement crises in East Africa and North Africa, the Fund allocated $64 million for aid to 1.7 million people in Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, the Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

26. Humanitarian efforts linked to population displacement accounted for all $28.3 million in Fund allocations for Uganda in 2016. Uganda is host to nearly 1 million refugees, and the response in that country is reflective of efforts to cope with the displacement crisis that has embroiled Central Africa and East Africa in recent years. Provided partly through the underfunded emergencies window ($18 million) and partly through the rapid response window ($10.3 million), Fund allocations for Uganda helped to meet the needs of refugees from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan and those of the communities that host them. Conflict in South Sudan, which has been ongoing since 2013, forced some 660,000 South Sudanese to seek refuge in Uganda by the end of 2016. Uganda now hosts the world's largest refugee camp, the Bidi Bidi settlement, which is home to 270,000 South Sudanese. Nearly 215,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo also live in Uganda, and the country hosts about 40,000 refugees from Burundi, whose arrival peaked in March 2016. In 2016, activities funded by the Fund for this diverse group of refugees included reception and registration; the provision of shelter and non-food items; the establishment of women- and child-friendly spaces; sexual and reproductive health care; food aid for people in transit; livelihoods and agricultural support for refugee families; health care; and water and sanitation interventions.

27. When a person flees his or her home, the initial displacement is only one point in the continuum of disruption, which also encompasses reception and settlement in a host location, and eventually may include a return home. There are specific needs associated with each of these situations. In 2016, $9.8 million in funds allocated by the Fund brought assistance to people returning to Afghanistan. Humanitarian efforts in that country targeted documented and undocumented Afghan returnees with services such as shelter and winterization supplies, mine-risk education, food aid, health-care services and cash assistance.

B. Natural disasters and disease outbreaks

28. Too much water, or not enough, is the hallmark of El Niño, which continued to affect vulnerable communities worldwide in 2016. Since 2015, El Niño has upended typical weather patterns, triggering both drought and flooding and causing parched earth and failed harvests, or too much water, failed harvests and a higher risk of water-borne diseases. By late 2016, it had affected some 60 million people in East Africa and Southern Africa, South-East Asia, the Pacific Islands and the Caribbean and parts of Central America. From early 2015 to the end of 2016, the Fund allocated $117.5 million for El Niño-related relief in 19 countries. In 2016, the Fund's grants linked to the humanitarian consequences of El Niño totalled $61 million for relief efforts in 13 countries.

29. In October 2016, Hurricane Matthew hit the Caribbean, with severe consequences for life and property in several countries. The Fund, the largest contributor to the United Nations humanitarian appeal for relief in Cuba, provided $5.4 million, or 71 per cent of the appeal, for safe education and recreation spaces for children; food aid for children, the elderly and pregnant and lactating women; sexual and reproductive health interventions; and non-food items and temporary shelter. The hurricane was devastating to Haiti, where people were still struggling to fully recover from the earthquake of 2010 and to cope with a cholera epidemic. Homes, basic infrastructure and livelihoods were destroyed. The flexible structure of the Fund allowed for the provision of $6.8 million within days of the hurricane to help agencies on the ground in Haiti to jump-start hurricane-relief efforts. Work funded by allocations from the Fund included general food distribution in the wake of the hurricane, support for vulnerable girls and women, the procurement of classroom materials for post-hurricane back-to-school efforts, the reinforcement of cholera-prevention work, bolstering capacity to manage the distribution of non-food items for people displaced by the hurricane, and other humanitarian work. In December, the Emergency Relief Coordinator provided an additional $3.5 million to help families in Haiti that were still sheltering in schools to begin emergency repairs to their homes so that the schools could restart.

30. Extreme tropical cyclones also affected vulnerable people in Fiji. Tropical Cyclone Winston, a category 5 tropical cyclone, hit the archipelago in February 2016; entire villages were wiped out and schools destroyed. Thousands of people sought emergency shelter. Providing essential food, health care and shelter was a priority, as was re-establishing communications and movement among the islands. The Fund allocated $8 million through the rapid response window to address these immediate needs.

31. In April 2016, a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck Ecuador, directly affecting more than 385,000 people. It resulted in thousands of injuries and the loss of hundreds of lives. The Fund released $7.5 million almost immediately. The funds helped agencies and their partners to provide primary-care services, along with shelter and relief items, drinking water, protection responses related to sexual and gender-based violence, camp coordination and camp management services and other support, such as a displacement-tracking matrix.

32. A yellow fever outbreak was the impetus for the Fund's rapid response funding for Angola in March 2016. Yellow fever emerged in that country late in 2015, and WHO-led emergency vaccination campaigns, using vaccine stocks from the International Coordinating Group, reached millions of people in the most affected provinces. The Fund allocated $3 million to WHO in March to replenish some of the stocks, which in turn were used to help roll back the outbreak by means of vaccination campaigns throughout 2016, thereby reaching more than 2 million people.

C. Impact on the region of funding from the Fund

33. As was the case with the previous report, the regional spotlight of the present report falls on the Lake Chad Basin area. More than 10 million people in Cameroon, Chad, the Niger and Nigeria — the four countries bordering Lake Chad — continue to experience extreme humanitarian need owing to drought and Boko Haram-related violence in the region. By early February 2017, 2.3 million people had been displaced, more than 7.1 million people were food insecure at crisis or emergency levels and half a million children were suffering from severe acute malnutrition. Millions of people lacked access to clean water, health care and education.

34. From 2014 to the end of 2016, the Fund allocated $104 million for humanitarian assistance to people affected by the crisis in the Lake Chad Basin. In 2016, the Fund designated $52.7 million from the rapid response window and the underfunded emergencies window for the four countries to address humanitarian needs arising from Boko Haram-related violence. The Fund enabled a number of agencies and their implementing partners to undertake a holistic response to an all-encompassing crisis situation that had become chronic and was rapidly evolving.

35. The relief work funded by allocations from the Fund to meet the needs caused by the Lake Chad Basin crisis in 2016 was broad and varied. Some of the many examples included emergency obstetric care, and protection and psychosocial support for children (Cameroon); food rations, agricultural support and treatment for severe and moderate acute malnutrition (Chad); the minimum initial service package of health care and reproductive services to combat maternal and newborn mortality, and shelter and non-food items to newly displaced people (the Niger); and emergency health services and the minimum initial package of services for reproductive health care (Nigeria).

IV. Management and administration of the Fund

Advisory Group

36. The Advisory Group of the Central Emergency Response Fund was established following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 60/124 to advise the Secretary-General, through the Emergency Relief Coordinator, on the use and impact of the Fund. In 2016, the Advisory Group met in March and September. At the meeting in March, the Group declared its support for the expansion of the funding target of the Fund to $1 billion per year and reiterated support for the Fund's focus on rapid and life-saving work. In September, the Secretary-General named eight new members to the 18-member Advisory Group.[1] The Group applauded the reduction in the United Nations Secretariat programme support cost from 3 to 2 per cent and expressed its appreciation for the effective management of the Fund.

Global reach of Fund partnerships

37. The Fund is mandated to provide grants only to United Nations agencies, but many of its grants are implemented by United Nations agencies in partnership with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), host Governments and Red Cross/Red Crescent societies.

[1] There were eight new members, as opposed to the traditional six, owing to the early departure of two members.

38. Of the Fund's total $470 million in allocations in 2015 (the latest year for which partnership data are available),[2] a total of $120 million in subgrants was provided by recipient United Nations agencies to 648 implementing partners across 45 countries. This vast network of partnerships represents an unparalleled global reach that would be difficult to achieve through direct donor-funding agreements.

39. Subgrants represented 26 per cent of the overall funding allocated by the Fund in 2015. That figure does not include the value of in-kind partnership arrangements.

40. The majority of organizations that implemented funding through subgrants in 2015 were national and local partners, including 320 national or local NGOs, 161 government partners and 24 Red Cross/Red Crescent societies. The remaining 143 partners were international NGOs. The agencies that made the most use of subgrants received through the Fund were UNICEF ($48 million), UNHCR ($28 million) and WFP ($21 million).

Monitoring

41. In 2016, the Fund developed a guidance note on country-level monitoring of the implementation of its allocations. In the note, the it clarifies roles and responsibilities in tracking the implementation of grants from the Fund and in ensuring that relevant and timely information is available to resident coordinators/humanitarian coordinators. The note was developed in response to requests from field-level partners involved in the processes of the Fund and in accordance with the recommendations of several audits and evaluations carried out with regard to the Fund, including audits by the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat.

42. The Fund also created an interim project-reporting template to facilitate easy information-sharing at the country level. It will help to ensure that resident coordinators/humanitarian coordinators and other humanitarian actors in each country are kept informed about the implementation of projects funded by the Fund.

43. The guidance note and the interim project-reporting template were forwarded to all resident coordinators/humanitarian coordinators as an attachment to the allocation-approval email they received from the Emergency Relief Coordinator. Owing to the positive feedback received from resident coordinators/humanitarian coordinators on the usefulness of the interim project-reporting template and to observations contained in audits conducted at the field level, the secretariat of the Fund decided to make use of the interim project-reporting template mandatory in 2017.

Transparency

44. Transparency is the cornerstone of accountability. Initiatives such as the Fund's grant management system, which continued to be developed in 2016, ensure that all the grant data of the Fund are readily available in one searchable location. When that system is updated, the financial tracking system, which is managed by the Financial Tracking Service of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and the Fund website are also updated. The roll-out and consolidation of the system have contributed greatly to expanded reporting by the Fund in line with

[2] Central Emergency Response Fund grants are implemented within a time frame of six to nine months, and narrative reports on grant implementation are required three months thereafter. Thus, the funding allocated in 2015 was implemented by the fourth quarter of 2016 and reported on by the end of 2016.

standards set by the International Aid Transparency Initiative. The Fund now reports all of its allocations through the voluntary, multi-stakeholder International Aid Transparency Initiative, which seeks to improve the transparency of aid resources to increase their effectiveness.

45. The secretariat of the Fund has also taken steps to publish all of its allocations and contributions on the Humanitarian Data Exchange, which is an open platform for sharing data related to emergencies.

Risk management

46. In 2016, the secretariat of the Fund built upon previous work to track and communicate information related to partner investigations into cases of possible fraud involving funds. In keeping with its communication guidelines and standard operating procedures, the secretariat continued to liaise with agencies and donors regarding potential fraud cases in 2016 and updated its standard operating procedures on the basis of lessons learned. In accordance with the standard operating procedures, the Secretary-General will include in his annual report on the Fund an overview of potential cases of fraudulent use during the year.

47. In 2016 and early 2017, three cases of possible fraudulent use of funds by partners under projects using a Fund grant were reported to the secretariat of the Fund. Communication and follow-up were conducted in accordance with the guidance note and the standard operating procedures. On the basis of evidence gathered during investigations by the investigative offices of the respective agencies, it was found that the allegations in one case were unsubstantiated, and the case was closed. In the two other cases, the allegations were substantiated, with the Fund's combined exposure in the two cases estimated at approximately $4,600 in total.

48. On the basis of the investigation and follow-up actions of the agencies concerned, the circumstances that led to the investigations are considered to be contained, with no additional funds at risk.

Reduction in programme support costs

49. On 1 June 2016, the Fund's programme support cost rate was reduced from 3 to 2 per cent. That effort was in line with the Fund's commitments under the Grand Bargain on humanitarian financing (see para. 65 below). Because the reduction was implemented on 1 June 2016, it made some $2.8 million in additional funding available for grants to support life-saving assistance in 2016. The reduction is expected to make about $4 million available annually for life-saving assistance, based on annual funding of $450 million.

Reporting by resident coordinators/humanitarian coordinators

50. In 2015, the latest year for which such data are available, the Fund reached millions of people with life-saving assistance. About 53 per cent of these people were women and girls. However, the share of women and girls receiving support provided by the Fund was even higher in some sectors: 61 per cent in nutrition and 55 per cent in health. Of the people reached with nutrition assistance provided by the Fund, 71 per cent were children.

51. An estimated 60 per cent of people reached with funding allocated by the Fund in 2015 were refugees, internally displaced people or members of host communities in 37 countries.

52. In 2015, through humanitarian action made possible by grants allocated by the Fund:

- 19 million people benefited from water and sanitation assistance
- 13 million people received access to health care
- 11 million people received food
- 5.7 million people benefited from protection interventions
- 2.6 million people improved their food security through agriculture assistance
- 2.1 million people received shelter assistance or basic relief items
- 2 million people received nutritional support
- Many more people benefited from multisectoral support, mine action, education assistance and camp management interventions.

53. The Fund is of significant strategic added value beyond its value as a source of additional humanitarian funding. When asked to assess the value of funding provided by the Fund in 2015, 88 per cent of resident coordinators/humanitarian coordinators agreed that it led to the fast implementation of humanitarian response (the other 12 per cent found that it led in part to the fast implementation of humanitarian response). Ninety-two per cent said that funding provided by the Fund helped in the response to time-critical humanitarian needs, and 85 per cent felt that funds helped to improve the coordination of humanitarian action.

Training programme

54. In 2016, the secretariat of the Fund continued to deliver its training programme on how to use the Fund more strategically. The interactive workshops of the programme target key participants in the Fund process, including resident coordinators/humanitarian coordinators, United Nations country teams, humanitarian cluster and sector leads and the relevant staff of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The workshops provide an array of tools for field and headquarters personnel to use in navigating the challenges of deploying funds strategically and prioritizing the most urgent humanitarian needs. The secretariat delivered five field-based workshops and six webinars to field staff in 2016. Four headquarters sessions were delivered with crucial stakeholders who support the Fund process. Such strategic engagement has led to more focused, better-prioritized submissions to the Fund from humanitarian country teams. In 2017, the Fund will continue to provide field and headquarters workshops while expanding the number and reach of online webinars.

V. Funding levels

55. A total of $427.2 million was pledged in 2016, of which $426.3 million was received by 31 December 2016 (including $76.5 million received in 2015) from 50 Member States and observers, one regional authority and individual donors. Notably, six major donors — Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland — contributed an additional total of $36.1 million on top of their initial 2016 pledges in order to help the Fund to reduce its funding gap. In addition,

between 1 January and 31 December 2016, $4.3 million was received against previous pledges, and a number of donors advanced a total of $14.3 million for 2017.

56. However, despite such generous support, the funds received fell $23.7 million short of the annual target of $450 million. About $13 million of the shortfall was attributable to exchange rate fluctuations in the currencies of top donors against the United States dollar. The Fund's annual target of $450 million was not achieved in 2015 or 2016.

57. About 98.6 per cent of contributions to the Fund in 2016 was received from the top 20 donors (see annex II). The largest contribution was received from Sweden, followed by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Netherlands, Germany and Norway. The number of Member States that gave to the Fund dropped from 54 in 2015 to 50 in 2016.

58. Three Fund-recipient countries (Bangladesh, Iraq and Myanmar) received allocations from and contributed to the Fund in 2016, a testament to their solidarity with the Fund. Iraq contributed to the Fund for the first time in 2016.

59. From its inception in 2006 until 2016, the Fund received cumulative contributions of $6.6 billion from 126 Member States and observers and three regional authorities, and from foundations, corporate donors and individuals. Their generous contributions enabled the Fund to respond effectively and efficiently to diverse humanitarian emergencies in 98 countries.

VI. The way forward

Humanitarian impact of the Fund in 2017 and beyond

60. The Fund currently faces emergencies far greater and more complex than those it encountered at its launch in 2006. Global humanitarian funding requirements have more than quadrupled, soaring from just over $5 billion in 2006 to some $21 billion in 2016. The United Nations estimates that more than $22 billion is required in 2017 to meet the needs of nearly 93 million of the world's most vulnerable people. This explosive growth in need, and its greater complexity, means that decision makers must reassess the Fund's current capacity to save lives.

61. A strong and fit-for-purpose Fund is vital to the effectiveness of the humanitarian system in the face of these evolving challenges. In the decade since the launch of the Fund, its annual fundraising target of $450 million has remained unchanged.

62. Given the massive growth in need, by 2016 the share of global needs represented by the funding target of the Fund had declined from nearly 9 per cent to slightly above 2 per cent. When adjusted for inflation, the $450 million target represents just $[illegible]5 million in 2006 dollars. Put another way, to maintain the same funding power it had a decade earlier, the Fund would have needed to raise nearly $540 million in 2016.

63. The fundraising target that the General Assembly defined for the Fund in 2006 is no longer aligned with the scale of the world's crises. Therefore, the Secretary-General called for the Fund to be expanded to a $1 billion annual funding level by 2018. The Assembly officially supported that goal in its resolution 71/127 in December 2016. Some donors have already increased their contributions accordingly.

64. A $1 billion Central Emergency Response Fund would enhance its impact while maintaining its focus, scope and speed. It would ensure that the Fund can continue to carry out the life-saving mission assigned to it by the General Assembly. All Member States have the responsibility to ensure that the Fund can grow to reflect the current scale of humanitarian need.

The Fund and the Grand Bargain on humanitarian financing

65. At the World Humanitarian Summit, held in Istanbul in May 2016, donors and humanitarian actors reached an agreement on the Grand Bargain, which is a call to deliver more resources to people in need and to do so more effectively and efficiently. It recognizes that with the world's humanitarian response system woefully short of resources, new approaches are required immediately.

66. The 10 commitments outlined in the Grand Bargain aim to foster greater efficiency in aid delivery, including through less earmarking of humanitarian donor funding, improved transparency in aid delivery, reduced management costs, greater support for national and local humanitarian responders and a commitment to cash-based programming.

67. The Fund is closely aligned with many of the commitments contained in the Grand Bargain. The Fund is the only global, flexible and unearmarked fund of its scale, which facilitates quick delivery of humanitarian assistance to people in humanitarian emergencies anywhere and at any time. Projects for funding are jointly prioritized and selected by humanitarian organizations on the ground based on assessed needs, which leads to improved coordination of the response towards the delivery of collective outcomes. The Fund is at the forefront of transparency, with grant data available in real time on numerous platforms, including the Financial Tracking Service, the Humanitarian Data Exchange, the Fund website and the International Aid Transparency Initiative. The Fund has a light reporting framework, which requires one consolidated report on behalf of all implementing organizations. All reports are publicly available on the Fund website. In addition, the Fund is an important source of funding to frontline responders. More than a quarter of all its funds in 2015 (the latest year for which data are available) were subgranted to implementing partners of United Nations recipient organizations including 143 international NGOs, 320 national and local NGOs, 161 government entities and 24 Red Cross/Red Crescent societies (see para. 40 above).

Endorsement of a $1 billion per year funding target for the Fund

68. In December, the General Assembly formally endorsed the call to expand the annual funding target of the Fund. Recognizing the significant achievements of the Fund in facilitating life-saving assistance to crisis-affected people, the Assembly adopted resolution 71/127, in which it called upon all Member States (and invited the private sector and all concerned individuals and institutions) to consider increasing their voluntary contributions to the Fund to reach the $1 billion target.

69. At the high-level conference on the Central Emergency Response Fund held in 2016, panellists from Member States and United Nations organizations expressed their support for an expanded Fund. In addressing the conference, the then-Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, endorsed the expanded Fund and called for Member States and United Nations organizations to get their funding priorities straight and put the most vulnerable first.

70. The Fund is, by design, a way to help the international community get its funding priorities straight. Work will continue in 2017 to make good on the promise of the Grand Bargain and the potential that a $1 billion Fund has to offer, while keeping a focus on the children, families and communities found to be in the midst of crises. They have the most to gain, and the most to lose, from the way such priorities are aligned and how they are funded.

Annex I

A. Central Emergency Response Fund grant element: statement of financial performance from 1 January to 31 December 2016[a]

(United States dollars)

Revenue	
Voluntary contributions[b]	373 453 016
Other transfers and allocations	94 917
Investment revenue[c]	1 315 639
Total revenue	**374 863 572**
Expenses	
Grants and other transfers	433 935 365
Other operating expenses[d]	17 330 347
Total expenses	**451 265 712**
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	**(76 402 140)**

[a] Statements were prepared in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

[b] Represents voluntary contributions in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

[c] Includes net investment revenue of $214,744 earned on the loan component of the Central Emergency Response Fund in accordance with General Assembly resolution 66/119.

[d] Includes programme support costs (United Nations) of $9,677,107 and net exchange losses of $9,062,379.

B. Central Emergency Response Fund grant element: statement of changes in net assets from 1 January to 31 December 2016[a]

(United States dollars)

Net assets as at 31 December 2015	305 788 416
Change in net assets	
Surplus/deficit for the year	**(76 402 140)**
Total change in net assets	**(76 402 140)**
Net assets as at 31 December 2016	**229 386 276**

[a] Statements were prepared in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

Annex II

Central Emergency Response Fund grant element: contributions pledged, 1 January to 31 December 2016

(United States dollars)

Contributor	*Pledged contributions*[a]
Member States and observers	
Albania	1 000
Andorra	16 633
Argentina	60 000
Armenia	5 000
Australia	7 728 582
Bangladesh	5 000
Belgium	10 893 246
Canada	22 528 736
Chile	30 000
China	500 000
Cyprus	13 910
Denmark	15 151 515
Djibouti	1 000
Estonia	109 890
Finland	7 803 790
Germany	55 133 606
Guyana	2 179
Iceland	300 000
India	500 000
Indonesia	200 000
Iraq	5 000
Ireland	13 917 151
Italy	2 507 694
Japan	1 285 908
Kazakhstan	10 000
Kuwait	1 000 000
Liechtenstein	201 816
Luxembourg	4 923 414
Monaco	55 866
Montenegro	2 000
Myanmar	10 000
Netherlands	60 175 055
New Zealand	2 063 274
Norway	45 385 514
Pakistan	10 000
Peru	3 973
Philippines	5 000

Contributor	*Pledged contributions**
Portugal	54 705
Republic of Korea	4 000 000
Russian Federation	1 500 000
Saudi Arabia	150 000
Singapore	50 000
South Africa	428 878
Spain	2 219 756
Sweden	83 349 933
Switzerland	8 007 256
Thailand	20 000
Turkey	450 000
United Arab Emirates	1 000 000
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	69 720 796
United States of America	3 000 000
Viet Nam	10 000
Sovereign Military Order of Malta	5 000
Total, Member States and observers	**426 512 076**
Regional and local authorities	
Government of Flanders (Belgium)	659 341
Total, regional and local authorities	**659 341**
Other	
Private donations through the United Nations Foundation (under $10,000)	19 632
Total, other	**19 632**
Total	**427 191 049**

* Contributions are based on the pledged year of the donors and differ from the amount reported as revenue under the International Public Sector Accounting Standards. Actual received contributions may differ from the originally recorded pledges, owing to fluctuations in exchange rates.

Annex III

Total grants allocated from the Central Emergency Response Fund, 1 January to 31 December 2016

(United States dollars)

Country	*Rapid response*	*Underfunded emergencies*	*Total*
Iraq	33 354 244		33 354 244
Uganda	10 297 497	18 060 027	28 297 524
Sudan	17 644 007	6 991 425	24 635 432
Nigeria	23 483 769		23 483 769
South Sudan	20 823 623		20 823 623
Ethiopia	9 491 863	10 991 119	20 482 982
Chad	9 991 552	10 000 551	19 992 103
Democratic Republic of the Congo	5 594 179	10 995 505	16 589 684
Mali		15 999 980	15 999 980
Yemen	2 000 000	12 988 837	14 988 837
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	5 054 519	8 000 692	13 055 211
Burundi		12 985 955	12 985 955
Somalia	12 885 332		12 885 332
United Republic of Tanzania	1 498 097	10 994 664	12 492 761
Libya		11 989 024	11 989 024
Central African Republic	2 985 563	8 999 815	11 985 378
Haiti	10 383 240		10 383 240
Afghanistan	9 782 398		9 782 398
Jordan	9 377 520		9 377 520
Rwanda	4 218 944	4 998 778	9 217 722
Fiji	8 022 382		8 022 382
Angola	7 989 386		7 989 386
Ecuador	7 501 349		7 501 349
Madagascar	5 988 888		5 988 888
Cuba	5 352 736		5 352 736
Niger	4 989 275		4 989 275
Kenya	962 943	3 998 746	4 961 689
Bangladesh	4 890 038		4 890 038
Guatemala	4 829 690		4 829 690
Lesotho	4 782 918		4 782 918
Papua New Guinea	4 736 155		4 736 155
Mozambique	4 679 803		4 679 803
Sri Lanka	4 320 080		4 320 080
Cameroon	4 187 543		4 187 543
Viet Nam	3 897 864		3 897 864
Myanmar	3 570 457		3 570 457
Swaziland	3 141 908		3 141 908
Guinea	2 971 319		2 971 319

Country	*Rapid response*	*Underfunded emergencies*	*Total*
Mongolia	2 442 974		2 442 974
Republic of the Congo	2 366 915		2 366 915
Eritrea		2 002 599	2 002 599
Djibouti	1 972 054		1 972 054
Côte d'Ivoire	1 965 416		1 965 416
Nepal	1 942 999		1 942 999
Malawi	1 437 503		1 437 503
Timor-Leste	846 703		846 703
Lao People's Democratic Republic	328 811		328 811
Total	**288 984 456**	**149 937 717**	**438 922 173**

Note: The amount of total allocated funds in the present annex is based on the approval of the Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator.

Annex IV

A. Central Emergency Response Fund loan element: statement of financial performance from 1 January to 31 December 2016[a]

(United States dollars)

Revenue	
Investment revenue[b]	–
Total	–
Expenses	
Total	–
Surplus for the year	–

[a] Statements were prepared in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

[b] Net investment revenue of $214,744 was reflected in the grant element of the Central Emergency Response Fund in accordance with General Assembly resolution 66/119.

B. Central Emergency Response Fund loan element: statement of changes in net assets from 1 January to 31 December 2016[a]

(United States dollars)

Net assets as at 31 December 2015	30 000 000
Change in net assets	
Surplus for the year	
Total change in net assets	–
Net assets as at 31 December 2016	**30 000 000**

[a] Statements were prepared in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

Annex V

Central Emergency Response Fund loans, 1 January to 31 December 2016

(United States dollars)

Agency	*Country region*	*Year of disbursement*	*Amount*
Outstanding loans as at 1 January 2016			
Total			–
Loans disbursed, 1 January to 31 December 2016			
UNRWA	Occupied Palestinian Territory (West Bank and Gaza, including occupied East Jerusalem), Jordan, Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon	2016	20 000 000
UNICEF	Haiti	2016	8 000 000
Total			**28 000 000**
Loans repaid, 1 January to 31 December 2016			
UNRWA	Occupied Palestinian Territory (West Bank and Gaza, including occupied East Jerusalem), Jordan, Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon	2016	20 000 000
Total			**20 000 000**
Outstanding loans as at 31 December 2016			
Total			**8 000 000**

Abbreviations: UNICEF, United Nations Children's Fund; UNRWA, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

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Seventy-second session
Item 12 of the provisional agenda*
Improving global road safety

Improving global road safety

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General hereby transmits the report on improving global road safety, prepared by the World Health Organization in consultation with the United Nations regional commissions and other partners of the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration.

* A/72/150.

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Improving global road safety

Summary

The present report, prepared by the World Health Organization in cooperation with the United Nations regional commissions and other partners of the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration, provides an update on the implementation of the recommendations contained in General Assembly resolutions 58/289, 60/5, 62/244, 64/255, 66/260, 68/269 and 70/260. The report provides an account of activities undertaken and achievements attained by the global road safety community in pursuance of the objectives of the Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020) and of target 6 of Sustainable Development Goal 3 — halving road traffic deaths and injuries by 2020 — since the issuance of the previous report (A/70/386). A number of notable high-level events were held in the intervening period, including the second Global High-level Conference on Road Safety, hosted by Brazil; the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Ecuador, whose New Urban Agenda included a commitment on road safety; the Global Conference on Sustainable Transport, held in Turkmenistan; and the twelfth World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, held in Finland. Together with the publication of the Global Status Report on Road Safety 2015, the development of a proposal for a United Nations road safety fund by the Economic Commission for Europe and the adoption by the World Health Assembly of a resolution on road safety (WHA69.7), in which it accepted a request of the General Assembly, in its resolution 70/260, that WHO facilitate the process to develop voluntary global targets on key risk factors and service delivery mechanisms, those events continue to draw attention to road safety around the world. The report concludes with a number of recommendations to the Assembly for achieving the goals of the Decade of Action and Sustainable Development Goal target 3.6.

I. Introduction

1. Road traffic injuries constitute the tenth leading cause of death globally and the principal cause of death among those between 15 and 29 years of age. Road traffic crashes are responsible for more than 1.3 million deaths each year, while estimates of the burden of non-fatal injuries range from 20 million to 50 million. Half of all road traffic deaths involve vulnerable road users: pedestrians, motorcyclists and bicyclists. While countries have attempted to address key risk factors, such as speeding, driving while intoxicated, failing to use motorcycle helmets, seat belts or child restraints, poor-quality roads and vehicles, through legislation and other measures, enforcement in many areas remains weak.

2. The General Assembly, in its resolution 58/289, gave the World Health Organization (WHO) the mandate to act as a coordinator on road safety issues within the United Nations system and, in that role, WHO continues to closely cooperate with the United Nations regional commissions. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) hosted the twenty-fourth meeting of the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration in Bangkok in March 2017, at which discussions centred on the implementation of General Assembly and World Health Assembly resolutions, the activities required to meet Sustainable Development Goal target 3.6 and the progress of the five project groups established under the pillars of the Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020), another group on monitoring and evaluation and another on work-related road safety.

3. In several resolutions adopted since 2004, the General Assembly has called attention to the global road safety crisis and the need for improvement. Most recently, in resolution 70/260, it reaffirmed the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including two on road safety, adopted in its resolution 70/1; endorsed the Brasilia Declaration, the outcome document of the second Global High-level Conference on Road Safety, held in November 2015; called upon Member States and the international community to intensify collaboration; encouraged Member States to consider becoming contracting parties to United Nations legal instruments; requested WHO, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies and the regional commissions, to continue to facilitate, through existing mechanisms, including the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration, a transparent, sustainable and participatory process with all stakeholders in order to assist interested countries in developing voluntary global performance targets on key risk factors and service delivery mechanisms; and requested the Secretary-General to consider establishing a United Nations road safety fund.

4. The present report is the fourth one submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 64/255, in which the period 2011-2020 was proclaimed the Decade of Action for Road Safety, with the goal of stabilizing and eventually reducing the road traffic deaths worldwide. The report, which covers the period from September 2015 to August 2017, describes the activities undertaken by United Nations organizations, global road safety agencies, the private sector and civil society since the issuance of the previous report.

II. Progress on the Decade of Action for Road Safety

5. In September 2015, the objective of the Decade of Action for Road Safety was augmented by global targets under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular target 6 of Sustainable Development Goal 3 — to reduce road traffic deaths and injuries by 50 per cent by 2020. Road safety is also covered by target 11.2,

on providing access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all by 2030.

6. In November 2015, transport, health and interior ministers and their representatives gathered to address the global road safety crisis at the second Global High-level Conference on Road Safety. The Brasilia Declaration was adopted with a view to guiding action throughout the Decade of Action and beyond. WHO also released its Global Status Report on Road Safety 2015 at that meeting.

7. In its resolution 70/260, the General Assembly requested WHO to facilitate, with the full participation of Member States and in collaboration with United Nations organizations and regional commissions, through existing mechanisms (including the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration), a transparent, sustainable and participatory process to assist interested countries in developing voluntary global performance targets on key risk factors and service delivery mechanisms to reduce road traffic fatalities and injuries. In May the World Health Assembly, in its resolution WHA69.7, accepted the General Assembly's request.

8. The United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito in October 2016, adopted the New Urban Agenda (adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 71/256), a 20-year global policy framework for cities. Supported by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Road Safety, the New Urban Agenda sets forth a vision for sustainable mobility and transport, with road safety as a key consideration in urban planning and infrastructure design. It includes as a priority ensuring a safe and healthy journey to school for every child.

9. The Global Conference on Sustainable Transport, held in November 2016 in Ashgabat, provided a further opportunity to ensure that road safety is not forgotten during discussions of broader development issues as well as the opportunity to discuss the proposal for a United Nations road safety fund.

10. The twelfth World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion was held in September 2016, in Tampere, Finland, with a strong focus on road safety. The Conference brought together the world's leading researchers, practitioners, policymakers and advocates in the field of injury prevention to debate, discuss and share information and experiences.

III. International legal instruments, resolutions and policy instruments

11. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), through the Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety continued its work on reviewing both the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic and the Convention on Road Signs and Signals, to which there are 78 and 65 contracting parties, respectively. In particular, the Global Forum examined the consistency between the Convention on Road Traffic and the vehicle technical regulations, provisions on driving permits and automated driving. With regard to the Convention on Road Signs and Signals, recommendations were formulated to improve the Convention and its implementation by contracting parties.

12. The Forum further continued to update its policy instruments, such as the Consolidated Resolution on Road Traffic, by introducing changes to reflect the "safe system" approach[1] to road safety. In addition, a new chapter was formulated on multidisciplinary crash investigation. Discussions on distracted driving, the safety of powered two-wheelers and vulnerable road users also continued.

13. The Global Forum adopted a report on assessment of safety at level crossings in ECE member States and other selected countries. The report contained recommendations and a strategic framework for improving safety, with a comprehensive approach for achieving the continual improvement in safety performance at level crossings.

14. Through the World Forum for the Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations, ECE continued its work to produce international technical regulations for the construction of vehicles, their subsystems and parts relevant for vehicles and road safety. The World Forum also reviewed the legal instruments under its purview that provide the framework for the technical work. Fifty-eight countries, including those with a major automotive industry, are contracting parties to the two main United Nations international agreements: the 1958 Agreement concerning the Adoption of Uniform Conditions of Approval and Reciprocal Recognition of Approval for Motor Vehicle Equipment and Parts and the 1998 Agreement concerning the Establishing of Global Technical Regulations for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts which can be Fitted and/or Be Used on Wheeled Vehicles. A mutual resolution was developed to ensure consistency between the two agreements.

15. The scope of the 1997 Agreement concerning the Adoption of Uniform Conditions for Periodical Technical Inspections of Wheeled Vehicles and the Reciprocal Recognition of Such Inspections was extended to cover passenger cars and vans, in addition to trucks and buses.

16. During the biennium, the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods adopted several amendments to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road with a view to enhancing road safety and security. Those amendments, reflected in the new edition of Agreement published in 2016, entered into force in January 2017. One new contracting party acceded to the Agreement, bringing the total number to 49.

17. ECE organized two regional events under the umbrella of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) in order to raise awareness about the United Nations legal instruments and provide technical assistance to countries for accession. The SPECA Road Safety Capacity-Building Workshop, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in September 2015, and the SPECA Road Transport and Road Safety Statistics Workshop, held in Ashgabat in September 2016, gathered participants from the member countries of SPECA and other countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe to share experiences on the development of legal and regulatory frameworks for road safety, national strategies and the collection and dissemination of reliable road safety statistics.

[1] The safe system approach provides a viable framework to examine road traffic injury risk factors and interventions from a holistic perspective. The safe system approach is based on the Swedish Vision Zero strategy, which has the long-term vision of ensuring no fatal or serious injuries within the transport system.

IV. Technical support and collaboration

A. Pillar 1: Road safety management

18. WHO, in collaboration with other United Nations entities and the regional commissions and as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/260, established a process to facilitate the development of voluntary global targets on key risk factors and service delivery mechanisms. A meeting with technical road safety experts in September 2016 led to the generation of a draft discussion paper, which was made available for web-based consultation from October to December 2016 and an informal discussion among member States in November 2016. The paper was revised in early 2017 and submitted for further consultations, including with the Inland Transport Committee (February), civil society organizations (March) and the private sector (June). The second revision of the paper will be shared during WHO regional committee meetings and then discussed by a formal meeting of member States and organizations of the United Nations system in November 2017.

19. ESCAP, in July 2016, in Seoul, organized the Regional Meeting on Renewing Regional Road Safety Goals, Targets and Indicators for Asia and the Pacific. The meeting agreed on updated Regional Road Safety Goals and Targets for Asia and the Pacific 2016-2020 in line with the Decade of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals. Those goals and targets were adopted at the third session of the Ministerial Conference on Transport, held in Moscow in December.

20. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and ECE provided technical assistance to the Government of the Dominican Republic to promote best practices and adopt the United Nations conventions related to sustainable transport and road safety. ECLAC also promoted road safety as a key component of the country's law on mobility, urban transport and road safety.

21. ECE, ECLAC and ESCAP collaborated on a project financed by the United Nations Development Account to strengthen national road safety management capacity in four countries: Albania, the Dominican Republic, Georgia and Viet Nam. Road safety performance reviews were conducted in each country to help the Governments identify road safety priorities while capacity-building and public awareness activities were conducted, the latter to increase public and civil society knowledge of road safety issues. In cooperation with the Special Envoy for Road Safety, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) is conducting similar road safety performance reviews in Cameroon and Uganda.

22. In May 2017, WHO released *Save LIVES: A Road Safety Technical Package*, providing an evidence-based inventory of priority interventions with a focus on speed management, leadership, infrastructure design and improvement, vehicle safety standards, enforcement of traffic laws and post-crash survival. The road safety technical package is intended to serve as guide to support decision-making on priority interventions for scaling up the road safety response towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal targets 3.6 and 11.2.

23. ECE, with support from the International Road Transport Union, developed Safe Future Inland Transport Systems (known as SafeFITS), a knowledge-based tool to assist governments and policymakers in deciding on the most appropriate road safety policies and interventions to implement based on the available data. The tool is currently being tested in two countries.

24. The World Bank announced a road safety safeguard in 2016 designed to scale up interventions and monitor the potential traffic and road safety impacts on

workers, communities and road users in World Bank projects. In addition, interventions to improve road safety institutional management capacity were conducted by the Global Road Safety Facility in Brazil, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Paraguay, Romania, the United Republic of Tanzania and several Pacific island nations.

25. Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Programme (CAREC) countries, at their fifteenth ministerial conference in October 2016, endorsed the road safety strategy *Safely Connected: A Regional Road Safety Strategy for CAREC Countries, 2017-2030*.[7] The strategy builds upon existing strengths and addresses the unique challenges facing Central and Western Asia.

26. With funding from the European Commission, the Global Road Safety Partnership implemented the Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRACECA) Road Safety II project, which brought together governments and civil society organizations across Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and supported the implementation of the TRACECA Regional Road Safety Action Plan. The Plan is intended to ensure that the Europe-Caucasus-Asia corridor transport system actively promotes the safety, security and protection of users, property, the general public and the environment.

27. With the support of Bloomberg Philanthropies, the World Resources Institute provided technical assistance at the city and country levels to institutionalize a systemic approach to road safety. Bogota finalized its first city-wide road safety action plan based on the safe system approach and updated its road safety audit manual. Mexico City published a comprehensive road safety programme based on the safe system approach.

28. The Multilateral Development Bank Road Safety Initiative continued to accelerate action towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals, while the Development Bank of Latin America included road safety audits in all of the infrastructure projects that it financed.

29. Several workshops and training sessions were organized to address governance and leadership issues in road safety. In March 2017, more than 150 participants from 17 Latin American countries attended a workshop on strengthening road safety governance, organized by the Special Envoy for Road Safety, ECLAC, ECE, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Argentinian National Road Safety Agency. The Global Road Safety Partnership hosted annual regional seminars in Africa and Asia to bring together government, civil society and private sector representatives and, together with the Johns Hopkins International Injury Research Unit, launched the Global Road Safety Leadership Course for road safety practitioners from low- and middle-income countries in late 2016.

30. The Special Envoy for Road Safety co-organized a Regional Workshop on Motorcycle Safety, held in April 2017 in Kuala Lumpur, in collaboration with ESCAP, ECE and the Malaysian Institute of Road Safety Research. The workshop was attended by representatives from 15 South and South-East Asian and Pacific countries. Participants recognized that motorcycle crashes were a major cause of road casualties in the region and discussed ways to prevent such casualties through the mandatory use of a proper helmet (in line with the Uniform Provisions concerning the Approval of Protective Helmets and Their Visors for Drivers and Passengers of Motor Cycles and Mopeds) and effective enforcement.

31. The World Road Association launched its online Road Safety Manual in September 2015. The Manual presents a comprehensive, system-based approach,

[7] Asian Development Bank, Manila, 2017.

integrating all components of the road safety system, from infrastructure to drivers, education and vehicles. In 2016, the International Transport Forum at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development released a report entitled *Zero Road Deaths and Serious Injuries: Leading a Paradigm Shift to a Safe System*, which captured the view that crashes are both predictable and preventable and provided case studies from leading countries worldwide.

32. The joint meeting of the Committee of Experts on the Regulations concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail and the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods continued its work on the use of intelligent transport systems to improve safety and security in the transport of dangerous goods.

33. The three-year SaferAfrica project, started in 2016 with funding from the European Union, gathers 16 partners from Europe and Africa, including the International Road Federation and the Belgian Road Safety Institute, to provide recommendations to update the African Road Safety Action Plan and the African Road Safety Charter, as well as to foster the adoption of specific initiatives. In December 2016, the Special Envoy for Road Safety, in collaboration with ECA, the World Bank Africa Transport Policy Programme and the Kenyan National Transport and Safety Authority, organized a workshop on road safety data management and the United Nations conventions, highlighted as priorities in the African Road Safety Action Plan.

34. The International Road Federation convened the two-day Regional Road Safety Conference on the theme "Fast-tracking Road Safety Initiatives in Africa: an Inescapable Necessity", in March 2017 in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania. Representatives from across Africa discussed specific measures that could be put in place to achieve road safety targets.

35. In November 2016, the European Commission appointed a new consortium, led by PAU Education and including the Belgian Road Safety Institute and European Transport Safety Council, to further promote the European Road Safety Charter, a large civil society platform on road safety to which 3,400 public and private entities across Europe have committed themselves.

36. In December 2017, a workshop in the Gulf region was organized in Doha to review various road safety activities within the United Nations system. The workshop identified lessons learned and best practices to address road safety, specifically in the context of the football World Cup in 2022.

B. Pillar 2: Safer roads and mobility

37. Within the framework of the Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety, recommendations were formulated to guide countries in improving the implementation of the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals with the aim of improving road signage and ensuring its consistency with the Convention. Furthermore, a web-based platform was developed to simplify the application of the Convention and the correct use of road signs by countries.

38. ESCAP provided technical assistance to a number of member States to improve the safety of road infrastructure, including through the inspection of black spots and the provision of capacity development assistance in Fiji in November 2016. In addition, ESCAP undertook a study on providing regional standards for road infrastructure safety facilities along the Asian Highway Network and organized expert meetings to review the study findings and map future actions.

39. Under the Bloomberg Philanthropies Initiative for Global Road Safety (2015-2019), the Global Road Safety Facility and World Resources Institute improved road infrastructure safety in 10 cities and 5 countries by assessing more than 1,300 km of roads, training approximately 2,700 stakeholders and granting $315 million in World Bank loans. The World Resources Institute released the report *Cities Safer by Design*, providing guidance on promoting traffic safety through urban and street design. The Institute analysed crash data in Bandung, Indonesia, and Bogota to help those cities to prioritize targeted interventions and also supported the development and improvement of crash data collection methodology, specifically for bus transit systems, in the Brazilian cities of Belo Horizonte, Rio de Janeiro and Fortaleza, and in Mumbai, India.

40. Governments and development banks continued to invest in road upgrades on high-risk roads in order to achieve the star rating policy targets set by the International Road Assessment Programme. This included investment by Highways England to achieve 90 per cent of travel on four- and five-star motorways and three-star or better on other roads; upgrades by New Zealand to achieve four-star roads of national importance; investment in the Netherlands to meet the target of having no one- or two-star roads by 2020; targeted investment by the Malaysian Ministry of Transport to attain its target of a three-star rating or better for 75 per cent of the high-volume road network by 2020; and large-scale investment by Australia on the Bruce Highway in Queensland to deliver 85 per cent of travel on three-star or better roads by 2020. In Romania, legislation was introduced to require the development of road safety designs on new and existing roads, and 50 traffic engineers were trained in line with the World Road Association's manual.

41. The Millennium Challenge Corporation is increasing travel on three-star or better roads as part of its projects in El Salvador, the Philippines and Senegal. The World Bank has supported the State-led specification of minimum three-star design standards for corridor projects in Karnataka and other States across India. The Chinese Ministry of Transport has assessed the star rating of over 150,000 km of roads, and an estimated 30,000 km of roads have been upgraded. The Belize Ministry of Economic Development, Petroleum, Investment, Trade and Commerce upgraded major highways to a minimum three-star standard in cooperation with the Caribbean Development Bank. In total, an estimated $14 billion has been invested in projects to make roads safer across more than 20 low- and middle-income countries.

42. The safety performance of global infrastructure and the business case for safer roads was documented in the International Road Assessment Programme's publication *Vaccines for Roads*, which highlighted that more than 50 per cent of existing roads are at the lowest one- or two-star standard for all road users and that targeted improvements would unlock $8 of safety benefits for every $1 invested globally.

43. Several initiatives were implemented to improve road infrastructure safety around schools. The star rating system for school zone safety, created by the International Road Assessment Programme, with support from FedEx, was used by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that are members of the Global Alliance of NGOs for Road Safety to measure and manage the risk to schoolchildren on the way to school. A free mobile application will be available worldwide to support the vision for three-star or better journeys to school for all children and will be tested by the Fundación Gonzalo Rodríguez in Argentina and Uruguay as a part of its FIA Foundation-funded project entitled "Latin American Children Safe in Traffic". The Asia Injury Prevention Foundation designed and implemented the "Safe School Zones" project in Viet Nam in 2015/16 and, together with the Australian Road

Research Board provided technical support in China as part of its Walk Wise programme.

44. A six-week certification course for road safety auditors was organized in 2016 by the Indian Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, in collaboration with the International Road Federation and Australian Road Research Board. The course included training in traffic engineering and practical audit work. In May 2017, the International Road Federation introduced its Global Credential Programme for Road Safety Audit Team Leaders, recognizing the essential role of road safety audits and inspections to drive change in safe road design practices.

45. In 2015/16, the Abu Dhabi City Municipality and its Department of Municipal Affairs and Transport developed a new set of unified standards to ensure consistency in road design, construction and maintenance standards across the emirate.

C. Pillar 3: Safer vehicles

46. The World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations continued to prescribe performance-based requirements for conventional as well as connected and automated vehicle systems and to incorporate them into the United Nations regulations annexed to the 1958 Agreement concerning the Adoption of Uniform Conditions of Approval and Reciprocal Recognition of Approval for Motor Vehicle Equipment and Parts and into the global technical regulations developed within the framework of the 1998 Agreement. New United Nations regulations pertain to the safety-related performance of quiet road vehicles, brake-assist systems, electronic stability control, tyre pressure monitoring systems, installation of tyres, frontal collision with a focus on restraint systems, safety of electric-powered two-wheelers and pole side impact.

47. Regarding intelligent transport systems, ECE and the International Telecommunication Union organized symposiums on the theme "The future networked car" in 2016 and 2017. In March 2017, the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations adopted the first United Nations regulation covering automated driving functionalities as well as guidelines on cyber security and data protection. A number of demonstrations were made in the grounds of the Palais des Nations in Geneva, with the car manufacturers demonstrating both the benefits provided by such innovations as remote-control parking, autonomous shuttles and the progress in vehicle safety in general.

48. The Global New Car Assessment Programme provided financial and technical support to new car assessment programmes in South-East Asia and Latin America. In India, the Safer Cars project has been a catalyst for the Government to introduce new crash testing from October 2017, to introduce anti-lock braking systems in motorcycles from 2018 and to launch its own new car assessment programme. In addition, the Global New Car Assessment Programme launched the #NoZeroStarCars campaign and a Road Map for Safer Cars 2020, which includes a recommended timetable for the application of improved vehicle safety regulations. Under the Road Map, the universal application of the United Nations regulations for front, side, and pedestrian crash tests and for mandatory electronic stability control in all new passenger cars by 2020 is proposed. The Global New Car Assessment Programme is also leading the Stop the Crash Partnership, a multi-stakeholder initiative promoting the most important crash avoidance systems.

49. At the country level, the Abu Dhabi police made it mandatory for a description to be given of the make and model of vehicles involved in collisions in order to enhance driver education and vehicle testing and/or specifications, while the United

States Department of Transport published new standards for school buses to ensure that the fleet is safe and roadworthy.

D. Pillar 4: Safer road users

50. Under the Bloomberg Philanthropies Initiative for Global Road Safety 2015-2019, WHO implemented the Legal Development Programme, a capacity-building programme for lawyers and advocates in China, India, the Philippines, Thailand, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam. Annual workshops on improving road safety legislation attended by Legal Development Programme members were organized by WHO headquarters and a webinar series was launched, making the programme available to a global audience. To further support capacity-building in the field of road safety legislation, WHO developed an e-learning platform on road safety legislation in collaboration with the Johns Hopkins International Injury Research Unit.

51. In May 2017, Bloomberg Philanthropies, in partnership with WHO and Vital Strategies, launched the Partnership for Healthy Cities, a global network of cities committed to saving lives through the implementation of 1 of 10 proven interventions to prevent non-communicable diseases and injuries; 3 of those interventions relate to road safety.

52. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in partnership with the FIA Foundation, expanded its Child Road Traffic Injury Prevention Programme to cover nine countries: China, Cuba, Jamaica, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, the Philippines, South Africa and Viet Nam. The programme focuses on the safe journey to school agenda developed with the Global Initiative for Child Health and Mobility and combines in-country programming with global advocacy.

53. The Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety supported the Indian Institute of Road Traffic Education in the organization of conferences on the safety of powered two-wheelers for South-East Asian countries in February and November 2016. The conferences were attended by representatives from all countries in the region and resulted in the preparation of a policy paper for improving the safety of powered two-wheelers for South-East Asian countries and other low- and middle-income countries.

54. The International Road Federation, with support from Shell and Michelin, launched the Drive Safe India initiative in May 2017, whose objective is the development of a voluntary industry code to reduce traffic crashes and fatalities by transforming commercial vehicle standards, driver care and training, vehicle financing, insurance and road haulage contracts.

55. The Eastern Alliance for Safe and Sustainable Transport, supported by the FIA Foundation and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, built a network of road safety partner organizations in 11 countries across Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Since September 2015, the network has implemented over 60 initiatives to improve pedestrian safety, seat belt wearing, children's road safety education, the use of child restraints, safe mobility for vulnerable groups, speed reduction and effective police enforcement.

56. The Asia Injury Prevention Foundation continued to collaborate with corporate partners in Viet Nam to implement school-based helmet safety programmes. With the support of Johnson & Johnson, the Foundation piloted its School Guidelines programme, approved by the Government of Viet Nam for nationwide use, aiming at building communities' capacity to implement road safety programmes over the long term. With the support of Abbott Laboratories, the Foundation worked with

students, parents and teachers at 15 schools in three provinces between 2015 and 2017. In the 2016/17 school year, helmet wearing rates at programme schools increased from 31 per cent pre-intervention to 79 per cent post-intervention.

57. Safe Kids Worldwide, with the support of FedEx, continued to implement the Walk This Way pedestrian safety programme, reaching over 1.5 million students in 420 cities. Walk This Way activities were held in Brazil, Canada, China, India, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, South Africa, Thailand, the United States of America and Viet Nam. The programme included infrastructure improvements around school zones, advocacy activities — including the Safe Kids Day event in India and the International Walk to School Day event in Canada, China, the Philippines, South Africa, the United States and Viet Nam — as well as education programmes and the development of education materials.

58. Safe Kids Worldwide designed and developed an international child passenger safety technician certification course in late 2016, which was then piloted in Mexico, with representatives from 11 Latin American countries, and in Qatar. The course is part of a three-year training plan that creates a core of subject matter experts and has the potential to certify 45 technicians and 2 or more instructors capable of independently certifying future Safe Kids child passenger safety technicians in each country.

59. In June 2016, the Fundación Gonzalo Rodríguez organized the second International Child Road Safety Forum, hosted by the National Traffic Commission of Chile and the Automobile Club of Chile and bringing together road safety experts from all over the world. In May 2017, the Fundación Gonzalo Rodríguez, the World Bank, the Development Bank of Latin America, the UPS Foundation and the Ibero-American Road Safety Observatory presented a study on conditions for the transport of children on motorcycles in Latin America, conducted in 45 cities in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Paraguay and Uruguay.

60. The World Resources Institute, with the support of FedEx, continued the implementation of the Safety First driver training programme for bus drivers and traffic officers in Brazil, Mexico and the United Republic of Tanzania.

61. In October 2016, the International Road Transport Union Academy, Cranfield University and the Eastern Alliance for Safe and Sustainable Transport launched an online road safety training tool on occupational road safety called "Road Safety at Work: Online Course for Managers", which provides guidance to managers in developing the leadership skills to implement appropriate road safety strategies.

E. Pillar 5: Post-crash response

62. WHO convened the biennial meeting of the Global Alliance for Care of the Injured with participants from 11 member States and 15 international organizations to discuss a range of initiatives to strengthen care for the injured. Upcoming areas of focus include the dissemination of the WHO Emergency Care Systems framework and the associated Emergency Care System Assessment tool, designed to help identify gaps and set priorities. Assessments have been conducted in over 25 countries, mostly in Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean. Other initiatives include the implementation of the WHO Basic Emergency Care course and an integrated set of triage tools for use in pre-hospital and facility settings. Partners provided post-crash support to countries through direct technical assistance as well as the publication of various normative documents, including the WHO report entitled "Post-Crash Response: Supporting Those Affected by Road Traffic Crashes"; a technical guide entitled "First Response to Road Crashes", published by the Global Road Safety Partnership and Global First Aid Reference Centre of the

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; a manual for enhanced first aid training for commercial drivers, developed by the International Road Federation; and the *Ibero American Comprehensive Guide for Crash Victims*, published by the Ibero-American Federation of Victims Associations Against Road Violence, Fundación MAPFRE and Development Bank of Latin America.

63. The Global Alliance of NGOs for Road Safety launched the Alliance Empowerment Programme in 2016 which builds the capacity of members to undertake evidence-based activities. More than 3,000 NGO representatives have already been trained. In April 2017, the Alliance held its fifth global meeting in Malaysia. It was hosted by the Malaysian Institute of Road Safety Research and sponsored by WHO, the Special Envoy for Road Safety, the Global Road Safety Facility, the World Bank, FedEx and the FIA Foundation. More than 200 delegates attended from some 64 countries. The main objective of the meeting was to facilitate members' continued involvement in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals and to prepare for the fourth United Nations Global Road Safety Week, held in May 2017.

64. FIRE AID and International Development was established in 2013 and has been active in improving post-crash response skills and equipment in countries facing some of the most severe road safety challenges. FIRE AID's work in one project in the Republic of Moldova, enabled the extrication and rescue of 94 road victims whose lives would not have been saved without the donations and training provided by FIRE AID.

65. The George Institute for Global Health continued to provide technical support to India for the establishment of a national injury surveillance system, the evaluation of the health insurance scheme for those injured in road traffic collisions on national highways. The Institute, together with Monash University, the Jai Prakash Narayan Apex Trauma Centre, and All India Institutes of Medical Science, is conducting a study on trauma care interventions.

66. Axa Winterthur, Zurich Insurance Group, Nestlé, the Global Road Safety Partnership and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies launched the Insurance for Safer Roads working group to collaborate to achieve positive road safety outcomes through the heightened involvement of the insurance sector.

67. The World Forum for the Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations adopted technical provisions for eCall systems on the basis of which countries and regional economic integration organizations can mandate the installation of such systems. The eCall systems are expected to provide assistance to facilitate effective post-crash response.

V. Advocacy

68. Since the beginning of his term, the Special Envoy for Road Safety has held meetings with government officials and relevant stakeholders in more than 50 countries, in particular low- and middle-income countries with poor road safety records. As a result, the ECE secretariat has received a number of requests for technical assistance from, inter alia, Bhutan, Cambodia, Cameroon, Colombia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal and Uganda. The outcomes of such collaboration include the accession by Iraq to the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic. In Mongolia in June 2017, the Special Envoy organized, in collaboration with ECE, a workshop for national road safety stakeholders on United Nations agreements on vehicle regulations and the transport of dangerous goods, hosted by the Mongolian Ministry

of Road and Transport Development, which brought together more than 50 road safety officials to discuss United Nations conventions, implications for contracting parties and the accession process for Member States. The Special Envoy hosted a workshop on the theme "Best Practices and Key Partnerships for Road Safety" at the seventy-eighth session of the ECE Inland Transport Committee, which was attended by government officials from Greece, Kenya, Jordan, Tunisia, Uganda and the European Union. The Special Envoy also convened a meeting with representatives from 14 United Nations agencies to highlight the importance of road safety in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to explore potential opportunities for collaboration, including on internal United Nations road safety policies and a possible United Nations road safety fund.

69. The fourth United Nations Global Road Safety Week and its related campaign "Save Lives: #SlowDown" was celebrated in May 2017. Some 1,000 events took place in at least 125 countries, drawing attention to the dangers of speed and highlighting the measures needed to address this risk. Activities engaged governments, NGOs, United Nations agencies, foundations and the private sector and took the form of "Slow Down Days", campaigns around schools, national policy discussions, television and radio talk shows and vigils for road traffic victims. WHO released "Managing Speed", an advocacy document showing that speed contributes to one in three road traffic fatalities worldwide and that evidence-based interventions exist. Some of the activities held worldwide included the "Speed Vaccine" advocacy campaign, launched by the Global Initiative for Child Health and Mobility, the publication of a special issue on speed management in the quarterly *Journal of the Australasian College of Road Safety*, events hosted by the Asia Injury Prevention Foundation in Cambodia, China, Thailand and Viet Nam and the development by the Network of Employers for Traffic Safety of a toolkit of materials for employers in support of the Global Road Safety Week.

70. The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims in 2015 focused on improving road user behaviour and sustaining or increasing the enforcement of road safety laws under the slogan "It's time to remember — say NO to road crime", while the event in 2016 focused on the post-crash phase under the theme of "Vital post-crash actions: medical care, investigation, justice".

71. The Global Network for Road Safety Legislators was established to serve as an open platform for parliamentarians to exchange best practices in road safety policies and law-making and to encourage more countries to adopt comprehensive and effective road safety strategies. WHO, together with the Towards Zero Foundation, held an international workshop for road safety legislators in London in December 2016, which was followed by the launch of the international Manifesto #4RoadSafety in May 2017. The manifesto includes 10 key recommendations to encourage parliamentarians to support the Decade of Action, Sustainable Development Goal target 3.6 and the WHO Save LIVES package of road safety measures.

72. In March 2017, transport ministers of the States members of the European Union issued the Valletta Declaration on Road Safety, calling for new steps on road safety and the development of a safer roads fund, a measurable goal for the Trans-European Transport Network and larger road safety projects.

73. ECE partnered with the Laser International Foundation for Engagement (LIFE) and the Special Envoy for Road Safety to organize the 2017 Global Road Safety Film Festival in February 2017 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, in conjunction with the seventieth anniversary of the Inland Transport Committee. The festival received 232 films, of which more than 100 were publicly screened during the festival to raise road safety awareness.

74. The International Automobile Federation, in partnership with JCDecaux, launched the first worldwide outdoor advertising campaign on road safety. The campaign involves 13 famous personalities who promote simple and universal messages designed to save lives on the road.

75. Under the Bloomberg Philanthropies Initiative for Global Road Safety 2015-2019, WHO implemented the road safety Media Fellowship Programme, a capacity-building programme for journalists in China, the Philippines, Thailand, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam. The fellowship aimed at establishing a mechanism for long-term engagement of a selected group of reporters trained in road safety reporting. Journalist training sessions were also conducted at key global events such as the second Global High-level Conference on Road Safety and Safety 2016. Additional training sessions were conducted by the George Institute for Global Health in conjunction with WHO for journalists from the western Pacific region while the Global Road Safety Partnership trained more than 300 advocates in 9 countries on designing and implementing advocacy campaigns.

76. The Global Road Safety Partnership, under the Bloomberg Philanthropies Initiative for Global Road Safety 2015-2019, trained more than 3,300 police officers in nine countries on topics including the most effective means of deterring alcohol-impaired driving and speeding and improving rates of seat belt and helmet wearing.

77. A number of conferences were organized by partners. The World Road Association organized the World Road Congress in November 2015 and regular workshops and seminars. Youth for Road Safety, together with the Child Injury Prevention Alliance and the Government of Senegal, organized a road safety conference for children and youth during the second Global High-level Conference on Road Safety. The Australasian Road Safety Conference was held in Canberra in September 2016 and featured a scholarship initiative, funded by the Global Road Safety Partnership and the Government of Australia, which enabled nine delegates from low- and middle-income countries to attend. The Institute of Road Traffic Education, in partnership with the United States National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways of India, ESCAP and ECE, held a conference on powered two-wheelers. Safe Kids Worldwide, together with the General Motors Foundation, FedEx, the FIA Foundation and others, hosted the second Safe Roads: Safe Kids Global Road Safety Summit in December 2016 and their Childhood Injury Prevention Convention in Baltimore, United States, in July 2017.

78. The Asia Injury Prevention Foundation coordinated the launch in Viet Nam of the SAFE STEPS Road Safety campaign, a pan-Asian public service initiative spearheaded by the Prudence Foundation in partnership with National Geographic and the International Automobile Federation in 2017. SAFE STEPS Road Safety campaign activities are also being implemented in Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Thailand.

79. In collaboration with Volvo, the International Road Transport Union launched the Give Us a Hand initiative, aimed at improving children's awareness of road safety, while FedEx initiated a series of workshops in Namibia together with the National Road Safety Council, the Global Road Safety Partnership and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, with a view to strengthening road safety within the corporate sector.

80. Various guidance documents and platforms were produced. The Global Road Safety Partnership launched the Advocacy Resource Centre, an online database allowing users to access a range of technical resources, while the FIA Foundation and UNICEF published an advocacy report entitled "Rights of Way: Child Poverty and Road Traffic Injury in the SDGs", highlighting how road traffic injury

exacerbates child poverty. WHO released a policy brief on drug use and road safety as well as a document entitled "Road Safety Mass Media Campaigns: A Toolkit", which shared lessons learned from implementing social marketing campaigns in low- and middle-income countries.

81. In May 2017, the International Road Federation released a new knowledge repository on road safety within the global Transport Knowledge Practice. The new section — on the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety — compiles knowledge produced by the organizations convening under the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration project groups for pillars 1 and 2.

VI. Data collection, research and monitoring of the Decade

82. WHO published the Global Status Report on Road Safety 2015 ahead of the second Global High-level Conference on Road Safety. The report showed little progress in terms of reducing deaths and injuries, but some improvements in the enactment of good road safety laws. It called for increased action at the country level in order to meet Sustainable Development Goal target 3.6.

83. The International Traffic Safety Data and Analysis Group published road safety data from 40 (mainly high-income) countries in 2016. It showed progress in 32 countries, although the number of deaths increased in the others. It also highlighted the increasing number of deaths among senior citizens in those countries.

84. The International Transport Forum, in cooperation with the Ibero-American Road Safety Observatory and the International Automobile Federation, commenced a benchmarking study on road safety performance in 10 Latin American countries. The findings of this project are expected to offer policymakers in Latin America a tool to assess the strengths and weaknesses in each country and to identify areas deserving policy attention.

85. A number of organizations have conducted workshops and training sessions to improve data collection and monitoring of road safety activities around the world. ECLAC, together with the Pan-American Health Organization, the Argentinian National Road Safety Agency and Chilean Road Safety Agency conducted various workshops to improve data systems; the Africa Transport Policy Programme of the World Bank organized two workshops in cooperation with the International Traffic Safety Data and Analysis Group on road safety data: from data collection to policy analysis, for English- and French-speaking African countries; and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States provided technical assistance to China and Thailand to improve their injury surveillance systems.

86. The Safer City Streets network was launched by the International Transport Forum and the International Automobile Federation during Habitat III. The initiative will develop data and analytical capacities in cities to monitor progress, with the support of the International Traffic Safety Data and Analysis Group. The International Road Assessment Programme developed free global software tools to explore the safety of road infrastructure around the world. The software — called ViDA — includes publicly available results from road assessments completed around the world. The International Road Assessment Programme is currently developing interactive tools to explore the star-rating and risk-mapping results for more than 1 million km of roads worldwide.

87. A number of studies have been conducted in various countries. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, together with Amend, conducted a randomized control evaluation of a school infrastructure improvement programme in the United

Republic of Tanzania that showed a 26 per cent reduction in injuries as a result of the programme, while a collision database established in Abu Dhabi allowed the Government to identify risky behaviours and target public education activities. The International Road Transport Union and the League of Arab States published a study entitled "The Impact of Professional Training on Commercial/Freight Drivers in the Arab World", which stressed the positive effect of professional training in terms of reducing crashes.

VII. Financial support

88. The General Assembly, in its resolution 70/260, requested the Secretary-General to consider the possibility of establishing, from voluntary contributions, a United Nations road safety fund. A proposal was developed by ECE and a consultation process launched by its Executive Secretary and the Special Envoy for Road Safety during the Global Sustainable Transport Conference in November 2016. The proposal was also presented at the seventy-ninth session of the ECE Inland Transport Committee in February 2017. The proposal will be updated in the coming months to incorporate feedback from Member States and relevant stakeholders.

89. The Global Road Safety Facility, hosted by the World Bank, made a $2 million commitment to road safety in low-income countries as part of the Clinton Global Initiative 2016 meetings and approved 25 new projects.

90. In May 2017, Bloomberg Philanthropies announced a $5 million initiative called "Partnership for Healthy Cities", which includes three road safety interventions.

91. The FIA Road Safety Grant Programme provided support to all International Automobile Federation members. Since 2010, a total of €4.8 million has been awarded to over 300 road safety initiatives in 75 countries. A yearly endowment of €1.2 million from the FIA Foundation enables members of the Federation to address road safety challenges at the local level.

92. Large-scale investment and upgrading of high-risk roads to a three-star or better rating was undertaken in a number of high-income countries: Australia, New Zealand, Qatar, Slovakia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States. The International Road Assessment Programme, with the support of the FIA Foundation, the Global Road Safety Facility, multilateral development banks, governments, FedEx, International Automobile Federation clubs, the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association and other national and regional partners, continues to research, develop and support the global application of risk mapping, star rating and investment planning. The proactive development of Safer Road Investment Plans that are optimized to maximize lives saved per dollar spent and improve the star rating of national road networks continue to grow. By the end of 2017, an estimated 1 million km of roads will have been assessed across 77 countries.

93. The Global Road Safety Partnership provided nearly $4.5 million to more than 50 civil society and government organizations to advocate for strengthened road user policies and vehicle safety standards.

94. With funding and technical assistance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, trainees with the Field Epidemiology Training Programme (benefitted from mini-grants ranging from $3,000 to $5,000 to conduct road safety related activities in Côte d'Ivoire, Georgia, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda and Viet Nam.

95. Funding support for community-based road safety projects, such as Safe to School — Safe to Home, was provided by Shell, Total and Toyota under the Global Road Safety Initiative, managed by the Global Road Safety Partnership.

96. A report entitled "Investing to Save Lives: An Impact Investment Case for Preventing Road Trauma" was launched at World Bank headquarters in September 2016. Supported by the United States Agency for International Development, the FIA Foundation, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the UPS Foundation, the study found that, in Cambodia, for example, an impact bond could help to prevent 14 fatal injuries and 260 other casualties over three years if implemented alongside a helmet-focused programme.

VIII. Conclusions and recommendations

97. **Since the submission of the previous report to the General Assembly, many high-level national, regional and global initiatives have been undertaken by Member States and the international community.**

98. **More action is needed, as evidenced by the Global Status Report on Road Safety 2015, in order to meet the goal of the Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020) and Sustainable Development Goal target 3.6 to halve, by 2020, the number of road traffic deaths and injuries.**

99. **More funds are needed for countries to implement the needed interventions, such as those recommended in the WHO Save LIVES package, during the Decade of Action and beyond.**

100. **To ensure that the goals of the Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020) and Sustainable Development Goal target 3.6 are achieved, it is recommended that the General Assembly call upon Member States:**

(a) **To significantly scale up action on all areas of road safety;**

(b) **To address road safety holistically; implement a good road safety management system, including having a lead agency; promote interdepartmental cooperation between the departments of roads/transport, police/justice, health and education; develop national road safety plans in line with the Global Plan for the Decade of Action; and set quantitative targets for reducing injuries and fatalities;**

(c) **To ensure political support and financial commitment for the Sustainable Development Goals in order to achieve the ambitious target of halving the number of road traffic deaths by 2020;**

(d) **To accede to the United Nations international legal instruments on road safety and promote and implement those United Nations conventions;**

(e) **To develop comprehensive legislation on risk and protective factors, protect bystanders and first responders and strengthen enforcement in order to achieve the target set by the General Assembly of increasing the proportion of countries with comprehensive legislation to 50 per cent by 2020;**

(f) **To support the WHO-led process to develop voluntary global targets on road safety risk factors and service delivery mechanisms;**

(g) **To strengthen the enforcement of existing legislation and advocacy efforts in order to achieve reductions in injuries and fatalities;**

(h) **To improve infrastructure, including by targeting the 10 per cent of existing roads with the highest volume and setting appropriate road**

infrastructure targets for all relevant road users and adopting road safety audits for all new road construction;

(i) To strengthen and improve pre-hospital care, trauma and rehabilitation services;

(j) To improve the quality of road safety data, including strengthening efforts to collect appropriate data for road safety management, such as health, social and economic impacts and the cost-effectiveness of interventions, and monitor progress in road safety;

(k) To scale up funding for road safety endeavours and develop sustainable and innovative financing mechanisms;

(l) To observe the annual World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims.

101. The General Assembly also encourages Member States:

(a) To participate in the fourth global status report on road safety survey;

(b) To develop and implement strategies that pay particular attention to vulnerable road users;

(c) To participate in new car assessment programmes;

(d) To support the elimination of the production of unsafe cars and implement the United Nations vehicle safety regulations or equivalent national standards;

(e) To recognize the decisive role that parliamentarians can play in the adoption of comprehensive and effective road safety policies and laws;

(f) To request that a report be submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session on these matters.

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Item 21 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General hereby transmits the report on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda (see E/2017/61) to the General Assembly pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2017/24.

* A/72/150.

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